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Cowbridge at Christmas PAGES 18-22

COUNTY BOROUGH REMEMBERS THE FALLEN

Remembrance Sunday was observed throughout the county borough and at each location, the story was the same – record numbers, with both young and old giving up their time to pay their respects.
Young Sea Cadets marched in Porthcawl (photo by Malcolm Nugent) and their elders were lost in thought at Pencoed (photo by Mandy Thomas). The centenary of the outbreak of World War One meant that many communities chose to do something special. In Pencoed, for instance, 32 schoolchildren wore sashes, each bearing the name of a soldier lost in The Great War.
See pages 4, 5, 6, 8 and 33 for images from many of the ceremonies that took place around the Bridgend county borough.

'PLEASE RETURN IT – NO QUESTIONS ASKED'

Veterans' shock as Standard is stolen

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

VETERANS who fought in military campaigns in Malaysia and Borneo were forced to march without their Standard in Bridgend last Sunday, after it was stolen on Remembrance Day morning!

The distinctive flag, which is almost entirely green, with a gold badge and gold edging, was stolen from outside the home of Ted Williams, the secretary of the Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association.

Mr Williams, who lives at No3, Pendre, Bridgend, said it was stolen at about 9.10am.

Although he was extremely upset, Mr Williams was taking a charitable view of the theft.

He said: "I believe that the person who took the standard may not have realised what he/she was taking, as it was in a green, fishing rod style bag.

"The Standard is of no use to anyone, but holds a great deal of memories for those who fought in the Malaya Emergency 1948–1957 campaign and the Borneo Confrontation 1963–1966.

"The Malaya Emergency was a very hard-fought conflict and a large number of National Servicemen took part.

"We left over 1,200 of our comrades buried in Malaya, and in those days we did two or three-year tours."

Mr Williams' main concern now is to get the Standard back – no questions asked.

He fears that it may have been dumped in a hedge somewhere, as it would be almost impossible to sell. Anyone interested in buying a flag would know what it signified.

He continued: "This is the first time that our Standard has not been on parade at the Bridgend War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

"This Standard represents comrades who failed to come home, memories of our youth and of those who have passed on in recent years.

"I would be very grateful for the Standard's safe return. Please contact me on 01656 661585 or via e-mail at tedwilliams129@aol.co.uk.

"I guarantee anonymity on safe return of the Standard to the above address, or knowledge of its whereabouts for collection."

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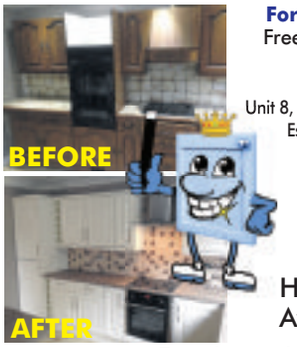

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Patients have their own special poppy garden at Princess of Wales hospital

A MINIATURE Flanders Field has been created for elderly patients at the Princess of Wales hospital.

Staff on Ward 18, which provides care to the elderly, decorated the walls and ceiling with poppies for Remembrance Day.

The idea came from the ward's two sisters, Sara Ralston and Donella Davies, who wanted it to be bright and colourful to interest patients.

Some of the poppies are homemade, while others were donated to Donella for the ward by Dixie Dean, secretary to the Pontycymmer branch of the Royal British Legion, who also provided stick-on poppies for the patients.

Sara said: "As our patients are older and many are quite frail, they spend a little bit longer on our wards and can be here for a few weeks.

"Being in hospital can be distressing for them, particularly as some have mental health conditions, so we want the ward to be as welcoming as possible so their stay is more enjoyable.

"As Remembrance Day was coming up we thought a poppy display would be interesting for the patients, especially as many were around for at least one of the world wars.

"Not only are the patients enjoying the display, but their relatives appreciate it too, with many commenting on how lovely it is.

"By making the extra effort, families feel assured we are doing all we can to help put patients at ease.

"The whole team is really passionate about making the ward as homely as we can and giving patients the best experience possible."

Ward 18 staff with their poppy display.

Ward sister Sara Ralston adds to the display.

CARE HOMES OPERATING ON 'LIMITED RESOURCES'

CARE home bosses in Wales have backed a call for urgent reforms of the way services are commissioned and paid for in Bridgend.

A review into the quality of life and care of older people in care homes in Wales conducted by the Older People's Commissioner has revealed worrying flaws in procedures for commissioning social care.

According to Sarah Rochira's report '*A Place to Call Home?*', the way care is procured is often more about "contractual frameworks and service specifications" rather than the quality of life of older people.

Care Forum Wales, the organisation that represents 500 independent care providers, welcomed many of the findings which reinforced what they had been saying for years.

Chair Mario Kreft said the report had also highlighted the fact that it was less viable to run care homes in Wales than it was in England.

As a result, an increasing number of Bridgend care homes were closing because they were not viable at a time when the need for them was growing because of the increase in the number of older people in Wales.

Care Forum Wales, he said, supported Sara Rochira's demand for a new approach which would see services being commissioned for quality rather than reinforcing a "culture of compliance to the bare minimum".

MARIO KREFT.

Mr Kreft said: "The report is an important piece of work but it does not fully recognise what is being achieved despite the system and does not give enough credit to the good quality care being provided by many good people across Wales.

"Yes, the standard of care can be inconsistent in places and where there is bad practice it should be rooted out, but the majority of providers are doing a remarkable job in the circumstances.

"Most care homes and nursing homes provide a very good standard of care while there are many examples of excellent, life-enhancing quality care taking place, often under difficult circumstances and with extremely limited resources because of the chronic underfunding of social care in Wales."

Guide Dogs need your used stamps

I AM appealing for used postage stamps which help me raise funds which I then donate to the Guide Dogs for the Blind – in the past year, I raised £1,100 from stamp donations.

Recycling used postage stamps is such an easy way to raise money for the charity and I am always in need of all types of postage stamps, including British, foreign and Christmas stamps.

I would be grateful if people could cut the stamps from their envelopes (leaving a 1cm margin around the stamp) and send them to the address below:

Myrna Chave, PO Box 91,
Virginia Water, Surrey,
GU25 9AR.
(Email stamps4gdftb@live.co.uk).

Funding boost to help protect the Lapwing

A VITAL Lapwing revival project will be undertaken at Parc Slip Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Bridgend, thanks to a Landfill Communities Fund grant of £26,060 from SITA Trust.

Parc Slip Nature Reserve is owned and managed by The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW). The reserve is a restored opencast site consisting of a mixture of meadows, wetlands and woodland. Thanks to this funding one of the key species on the reserve, the Lapwing, will be receiving a major boost over the next few months.

Vaughn Matthews, conservation officer for WTSWW said: "We are delighted that this funding has enabled us to carry out work to benefit such a beautiful and evocative species and we are looking forward to seeing an increase in breeding pairs at Parc Slip in the coming years."

The Lapwing is an iconic farmland bird which has undergone a drastic decline across the UK as a result of loss of breeding habitat. Today the lapwing is a UK and Wales priority species requiring urgent positive action.

To reverse the decline at Parc Slip Nature Reserve, a series of habitat creation and management projects will soon be implemented. These will range from the creation of wetland scrapes and cryptic nesting sites to the appropriate management of wetlands, meadows and arable fields.

In addition to the practical habitat management and creation, the project will also undertake research and monitoring on the reserve and in the wider landscape to better understand and conserve the species around Bridgend.

There will be plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in helping out with the project at Parc Slip; we are looking for keen volunteers to help with practical management on the reserve and we will be running regular work party days – see www.welshwildlife.org/events/ for dates.

Jools Granville of SITA Trust added: "This project focuses on a reserve, which in the past has supported up to 15 pairs of breeding Lapwing. This number has declined, following the national pattern. As a ground nesting bird the Lapwing needs quite an open site for nesting, where dense vegetation and scrub does not provide cover for predators.

Lapwing also like shallow scrapes and wet areas where chicks can feed. WTSWW will reduce scrub levels, create additional scrapes and nesting substrate which should lead to an increase in Lapwing at the site. We are delighted to have been able to support its work through the Landfill Communities Fund."

SITA Trust provides grants through the Landfill Communities Fund. This important source of funding has been available since 1997 and has provided such worthy projects with more than £1.3 billion.

Free learning get-together for the local community

BRIDGEND Communities First is inviting those who live in the Lower Cluster areas of Pyle, Brackla, Morfa, Newcastle, Oldcastle, Wildmill, Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr to a free community get together about learning, on November 27 at 10am – 1pm in Brackla Tabernacle.

The Welsh Government funded Communities First programme aims to reduce poverty by improving education and skills, health and employment opportunities. Throughout the morning you will find out about learning successes and barriers and find out what free learning opportunities are available for you.

There will also be lots of fun taster learning demonstrations including arts and crafts sessions such as Christmas centre pieces and jewellery making; computer skills including ECDL and how to use your iPad; literacy and numeracy learning and a family learning demonstration, showing what activities Bridgend Communities First delivers within schools.

A free lunch is also provided giving you the chance to meet other community members and organisations to have your say on training needs within your community – as Bridgend Communities First relies on your input to help plan future training programmes.

This is your opportunity to have your say on what learning opportunities you would like to see in venues and times suitable for you …so don't miss out!

For details, call 01656 815120 or www.commfirstbridgend.co.uk.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 20)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
13 Thur	10.08	8.4	22.37	7.9
14 Fri	10.55	8.1	23.31	7.6
15 Sat	11.59	7.5		
16 Sun	00.48	7.5	13.21	7.7
17 Mon	02.06	7.5	14.34	7.8
18 Tues	03.09	7.9	15.28	8.2
19 Wed	03.59	8.4	16.16	8.7
20 Thur	04.39	8.8	16.56	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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Local veterans mark centenary of battle

IT was a mild, sunny morning when 14 veterans set off from M4 Sarn services heading for the Belgium town of Ypres.

Our objective, to commemorate the centenary of the battle of Gheluvelt that took place on October 31, 1914. The journey by mini-bus to Dover, ferry to Calais and on to Ypres was just ordinary. However, arriving at Ypres at 19.00 we were confronted with a 'lock-down' situation, with roads and pavements closed off with barriers and armed police swarming everywhere.

This was an unexpected inconvenience since we had to manhandle our luggage to our 'luxury' apartment. It soon became clear from the number of limos assembled in the square outside the Cloth Hall that something big was happening. It transpired that 20 world ambassadors were attending the Menin Gate to lay their respective wreathes.

That's the easy bit covered. The remaining three days are far more difficult to put into words with any degree of understanding for the reader since they are charged with much emotion.

A visit to Essex Farm Cemetery to the north of Ypres had some 1,200 graves. It was here in May 1915, Canadian army medic John McCrae wrote his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. A visit to Tyne Cot cemetery, probably the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world with 12,000 graves, 8,000 unidentified with the inscription 'A soldier of the Great war, Known unto God', leaves you with a chilled feeling of 'Why?'

The Artillery Wood cemetery in comparison has 141 graves that includes that of Hedd Wyn.

All these cemeteries are maintained in immaculate condition by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, in comparison to the German cemetery at Langemark. There, the black headstones lie horizontal on the ground and will often be the mark of a massed grave.

Welsh memorial

The new Welsh memorial at Pilckem Ridge, where 38 Welsh Division saw action in the third battle of Ypres in 1917, is a magnificent monument for all Wales. We met a couple from the Swansea valley who wanted us to sing the Welsh National Anthem. The small crowd that had gathered were in awe.

And so, on October 31, 2014, 100 years to the day after the battle of Gheluvelt, we all assembled at the village of Gheluvelt to view and walk the ground where 2nd Welsh Regiment and 1st South Wales Borderers were in defensive positions against the advancing German XXIV Reserve Corps.

The battle commenced at 06:00 and by 08:00, the artillery barrage had almost wiped out the 2nd Welsh regiment position with 16 officers and 514 ranks dead, wounded or missing. The CO, Lt. Col Morland was killed in this action.

A wreath was laid at the South Wales Borders memorial at this location.

On the evening of October 31, 2014, three wreaths were laid at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, a very moving event at 20:00, every day of the year.

Dave Davies, BEM, TD, President Bridgend Branch RW Comrades Ass (RRW)

PAODS's search for a star

THE Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (PAODS) is looking for Porthcawl's own Dorothy, Toto and Munchkins to appear in their next production next April of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Dorothy: playing age 14 to 16 years old, must possess a good stage presence and a strong melodic voice; children, ages 8 – 17 years; Toto, a small well-behaved dog!

Auditions will be held on Sunday, December 14. For an audition, please contact secretary Barrie Wilson on 01656 788148 or by email: barriewilson1@sky.com.

Is your organisation in need of funding?

IF you are a part of a voluntary group or organisation in Bridgend County Borough looking for funding now or in the future, it is vital that you attend a free of charge funding fair on Tuesday, November 18 from 2pm-7pm at Bridgend Life Centre in Angel Street, Bridgend.

A Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations spokeman said: "The funding stalls will include Arts Council Night Out Scheme, Business in Focus, Charity Bank, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Community Chest, Green Shoots Rural Investment Fund, Heritage Lottery, Local Investment Fund, Social Firms Wales, Sport Wales, Tidy Towns (Keep Wales Tidy), Institute of Fundraising, Fundraising Standards Board, Community Foundation Wales and Groundwork.

"There will be a number of presentations and workshops. Admission to the whole event (funding fair and workshops) is free of charge and no advance booking is required."

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400.

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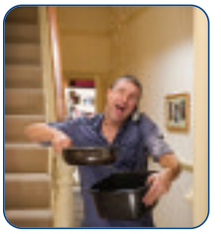
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BAVO seek people with big hearts

PICTURED (left to right): Tracy Evans, BAVO's AdvantAGE befriending support worker, Barbara Rees from Ogmore Valley, and PCSO Hayley Richards.

AN innovative partnership has been developed between Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) and South Wales Police to visit isolated older people within the Garw and Ogmore Valley, as part of BAVO's Big Lottery-funded Community Companions over 50s befriending project.

BAVO receives many referrals from older people in need of company. In some areas the demand is high, and it needs more volunteers to meet it. BAVO has welcomed involvement from PCSOs to visit isolated people in our community until a suitable volunteer can be found.

Can you make a difference to someone's day? Find out how by contacting BAVO on 01656 810400 or email bavo@bavo.org.uk.

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Cadets' Remembrance at Kenfig Hill

CADETS and staff from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets took part in the parade and service of Remembrance in Kenfig Hill on Sunday, November 9.

The Squadron cadets paraded four standards this year. Two cadets from the Squadron laid wreaths; Cadet Thomas laid the wreath on behalf of the Squadron and Cadet Willoughby assisted in laying a wreath on behalf of the Submariners.

The parade marshal was Sgt (ATC) Richard Peckham also of Kenfig Hill Squadron.

Sqn Ldr Barry C Thomas RAFVR (T) Officer Commanding 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets said the staff and cadets felt honoured to be part of the community's tribute to those who have given their lives in service, both in past and present conflicts, and also remembering their families and loved ones.

Lindsay Thomas
Secretary Civilian Committee

Staff and Cadets prior to the parade and service.

Good neighbours can help thwart the rogue traders

BRIDGEND county borough residents were urged last week to help protect their elderly and vulnerable neighbours from rogue doorstep traders – as part of National Consumer Week 2014.

This year's campaign asked neighbours, friends, relatives and carers to join a new scheme which lets elderly or vulnerable people nominate someone else to deal with cold callers and doorstep traders on their behalf.

A 'Nominated Neighbour' postcard is being made available by Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards team and South Wales Police, which elderly and vulnerable residents can place on their front door after filling in details of their nominated neighbour's address and phone number.

Bridgend County Borough Council's Leader, Coun Mel Nott said: "Unfortunately, rogue traders often target elderly and vulnerable members of our local communities. This year's campaign focused on protecting yourself as well as your neighbours and loved ones from these doorstep criminals who often cold call and offer to carry out repairs which are poor quality, unnecessary and charged at extortionate prices.

"There have even been reports of homeowners being driven to their bank to withdraw money to pay for a job. Doorstep crime can also have a significant impact on legitimate local traders, who can lose valued custom as a result of residents falling prey to the aggressive and underhand tactics of rogue traders.

"This new postcard initiative helps to prevent direct contact between vulnerable residents and doorstep traders, therefore reducing the risk of doorstep crime taking place."

To report incidents of doorstep crime, contact South Wales Police on 101. If you suspect a crime is in progress and a rogue trader is at yours or a neighbours' property, call 999.

To request a 'Nominated Neighbour' postcard, contact Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards team by calling 01656 643275 or by emailing tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk.

Concert raises £2,200 for Sandville Centre funds

A CHARITY concert on behalf of the Sandville Self-Help Centre in Porthcawl given by The MG Accordion Show Band, with the Col Canto singers, at the Stella Maris church hall, raised over £2,200.

A total of 100 guests were treated to a superb table buffet, arranged and supplied by Tracey and Paul of Town & Country Bedrooms.

Estate agents Watts & Morgan kindly donated the £100 'Golden Ticket' star prize, and various local business contributed valuable advertising support and other prizes, including a £50 dinner voucher from restaurant Rava in Porthcawl.

The MG Accordion Show Band are delighted to have been able to donate all their profits, which exceed £5,000, to local charities in the last three years.

They play a large repertoire of popular music, including Latin, songs from the great musicals, film themes and sing-alongs, and have completed over 40 concerts at various local venues this year.

Engagements this year included a wedding reception in the castle keep at St Donat's, The Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, the Masonic and other retirement homes, plus various clubs, WIs and social events.

Although the average age of the 'boys in the band', is over 75, and they have performed together for over 20 years, they still have a light-hearted style, enjoy 'fooling around', while they play, and entertaining audiences of all ages.

GERRY EZARD

Flying fares are no contest

I NEED to visit my apartment 80 miles from Malaga before Christmas, and having flown with Vueling from Cardiff before, I went to their website and was astounded to discover that they are offering just five flights in November and two in December.

These two December flights are priced at €250 one way. Alternatively, I can fly from Bristol with Ryanair, with a choice of four flights a week at almost half this price. There is no contest. Wake up, Vueling!

Dr Robert Balfour, Ogmore-by-Sea.

Fine turnout as citizens of Porthcawl pay their respects to those who died in war

PICTURES by MALCOLM NUGENT

PORTHCAWL'S Remembrance Day followed the usual format.

A service was held in All Saints' Church, and then the congregation walked to the Cenotaph in the church grounds, where they were joined by a large crowd of local people for the Last Post and the two-minute silence.

Many young people were present – a trend that has been growing over recent years.

ABOVE: Philip Richards made a personal family tribute to his father and grandfather, wearing their medals on Remembrance Day. The top row medals were awarded to his father, Garfield Richards, while the lower belong to his grandfather, Garfield Franklyn Richards. These include the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

Pencoed remembers the local men who died in World War One and Afghanistan

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07541 982794)

CONSCIOUS of the centenary of World War One, organisers of Pencoed's Remembrance Sunday honoured the 32 men who are recorded on the town's Cenotaph as perishing between 1914 and 1918.

Local schoolchildren (below) each wore a sash with the name of one of the 32.

While World War Two was included in the sombre day, time was also found to remember two more recent deaths, both in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Dane Elson and Lance Sargeant Tobie Fasfous were remembered when two white doves were released by family members. (See picture, far right).

The Remembrance Parade was notable for the large number of young people who were present, as local youth organisations turned out in force.

Two white doves were released in memory of soldies killed in Afghanistan

Porthcawl is packed out on November 5 for firework display and community bonfire

PORTHCAWL has always been busy on Bonfire Night in recent years, thanks to the free firework display organised by the Hi Tide Inn.

However, a new community event – a bonfire on Salt lake car park – definitely bought more local people into the town centre to enjoy the occasion.

The bonfire was the brainchild of some Porthcawl First members, and it was all organised within a week. Spokesman Steve Maitland-Thomas said that the original idea came from group member Les Tallon Morris, and that local businesses and the community had donated the wood.

Mr Maitland Thomas said that car parking money taken by local businessman Pat Evans was being donated to Ty Hafan – at Mr Evans' request. A sum of almost £700 has been collected. He said that a community collection on the night had raised almost £800, and that would go to local good causes.

He said they had been delighted to make the event happen in such a short time, and they were keen to do it again next year.

The Porthcawl Mayor, Coun Sean Aspey, hands out sweets to the children.

Heavy rain the day before meant that a rainbow framed the bonfire.

The bonfire is ablaze, with Porthcawl fun fair in the background.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS by STEL ANTHONY

ABOVE: Local firemen supervised the lighting of the bonfire.

Choir tune up for Christmas!

CANTORION COETY, a choir of 32 mixed voices which meets at Gilead, Coity, has been busy preparing for the festive season.

The choir sang at a musical evening arranged by Noddfa Ruhamah Chapel at Philadelphia Road, Porthcawl at the beginning of November. The performance was well received by the audience, and the choir shared the concert with the chapel's talented instrumentalists and musicians.

The choir will next perform at a concert to be held at Tondu Weslyan Church on November 14. As we approach the Christmas season the carols will assume their rightful place as part of the choir's performances.

Cantorion Coety will sing at the Gilead Christmas Tree Festival, to be held at Coity, on Monday evening December 8.

The period up to Christmas this year will have proved to be a busy time for Cantorion Coety. Grateful thanks go to their talented musical team of Eira Paskin, musical director and Gareth Waite, accompanist.

ARJ

Crowds gather in Bridgend town centre to observe special Remembrance Sunday

Photographs by **RANDELL JOHN**
www.RandellJohnPhotography.com (*Tel* **01656 662324**)

IN Bridgend, the Royal British Legion was conscious that extra attention was on this Remembrance Sunday – due to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One.

The crowds seemed to be bigger as a result, but all went smoothly as the parade made it way past the Civic Offices in Angel Street, and on through town to the Cenotaph, where a moving service gave the assembled crowd a chance to reflect on all those who made the ultimate sacrifice during wartime.

BCBC Leader, Coun Mel Nott, at the service in Dunraven Place.

Pencoed knitters are out to help Velindre charity

ABOVE (left to right): Myra Jones, Diane Dyer and Janice Davey are selling knitted toys for Velindre Hospital. (Photograph by Mandy Thomas, www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)

A GROUP of ladies from Pencoed are hoping that their knitted Christmas toys will be a success once again and raise more money for Velindre Hospital.

From left to right, Myra Jones, Dianne Dyer and Janice Davey have been making soft Christmas toys and filling them with chocolates for the Cardiff cancer hospital every year for 15 years.

Their responsibilities are neatly divided up. As Myra knits them, Dianne stuffs them, and Janice sells them!

Last year, they collected £1,000 for cancer research and this year they are hoping to exceed this amount.

The toys will be on sale as usual, in Pencoed, and are available from Sheppards chemists, and from the social club. There will be a Christmas fayre at the social club on November 29, and the toys will be on sale there.

For more information, contact Dianne Dyer on 01656 860521.

Pancreatic cancer toll: 'More needs to be done'

Steve Lewis, a pancreatic cancer patient, with Peter Black and Alex Ford of Pancreatic Cancer UK.

WELSH Lib Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, showed his support for November's Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month by attending a reception at the Welsh Assembly this week.

Organised by Pancreatic Cancer UK, it brought together patients, family members, clinicians treating the disease, researchers studying ways to diagnose pancreatic cancer at an earlier stage and representatives of other cancer charities operating in Wales, to increase awareness of pancreatic cancer during the awareness month.

In Wales, pancreatic cancer is the sixth biggest cause of cancer death, with 487 cases diagnosed, and 440 deaths recorded in 2012. 5-year survival rates in Wales are just 3.4 per cent.

He commented: "I was pleased to be able to support Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month by attending this event in the Assembly. It was good to meet with people who have direct experience of the disease, including some of my constituents. And it was an opportunity to learn more about pancreatic cancer and what needs to be done to change its shockingly low survival rates.

"Clearly there is more to be done to help improve early diagnosis into the disease so more people are diagnosed at a stage when curative surgery is still an option, and to come up with better treatments for patients."

Local band's new album is one to get excited about

Review by PHILIP IRWIN

One Time Alive are (left to right): Jack Parry, Ed Rees and Sarah Griffiths. (Photograph by Peter Morgan).

WRITING for The GEM comes with certain journalistic limitations – one being that if you make a statement, you should offer some evidence.

However, when it comes to reviews, those shackles are off, so here goes with a pretty extravagant declaration!

After seeing Porthcawl band One Time Alive launch their album, *Sugar Train*, at the SUSSED shop in James Street, I doubt if there is a better live band in the area.

That's extravagant for two reasons. First, I wouldn't claim to have seen all the other local bands, and second, the launch gig was the band's first – and there are no more local gigs on the horizon.

However, what makes One Time Alive special, is that they don't do cover versions. Every song on the album has been written by bassist and lead vocalist Ed Rees – so to hold an audience's attention doing nothing but original material is really quite remarkable.

How many times have you heard a band do a series of popular rock numbers, with the audience clearly enjoying the gig, and then they say the dreaded words: "We'd like to do a couple of our own compositions".

Generally, it takes about 45 seconds for the audience to wander off to replenish their drinks!

So, what I mean is that One Time Alive have produced an album with 21 self-penned tracks covering different musical styles, all of which hold your interest when played live – and I wonder if there is a local band that can offer that.

It helps that they are a solid unit instrumentally. Ed Rees is a bassist who knows how to keep the song moving. He's not flashy, but is very much in the John McVie mould. Drummer Sarah Griffiths does the same, and adds variety on backing vocals and the occasional lead.

Finally, Jack Parry, on lead and rhythm guitar, is a real prodigy, and at just 17, he seems vastly more mature. He's content to be part of the team, but when he does cut loose the result is stunning.

This is shown to best effect on the track, 'Certain Peace', which is a 'homage' to 'Freebird'. Sarah sings lead on this, and it's a gentle ballad, until Jack comes in for the finale, giving it the full Lynyrd Skynyrd treatment.

Another favourite of mine, and it's one that suits Ed's vocals best, is 'Midnight in Beechwood'. It has that edgy feel that you get from Don Henley or Tom Petty, with Jack Barry coming in with atmospheric guitar fills.

You get the feeling that Ed must have a massive record collection, because there are plenty of different musical influences, from punk to rock to Motown.

Lyrically, the songs are interesting rather than pointed. Ed is more Pete Sinfield than Paul Simon, but again the complete package holds your attention, and the songs repay repeat listening.

The album was recorded in Ed's studio at home in Porthcawl, and some of the bigger productions meant having the brass section set up in the living room!

It would be good if this collection of songs could find their way to a wider audience.

The album Sugar Train is available from SUSSED, James Street, Porthcawl and from Amazon.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS REINDEER COMPETITION

Porthcawl shops taking part in the competition will be displaying the poster shown on the right .

IT is the last week of the GEM reindeer competition – organised by Porthcawl Town Twinning Asssociation and Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

By now, youngsters taking part should have collected plenty of clues as they follow the story of Santa's missing reindeer.

Don't worry, if you have missed the first four episodes, they can still be read via The GEM's online edition.

Copies of those episodes can also be collected from the Porthcawl Town Council office in Victoria Avenue.

The full competition rules were printed with parts one and two.

Part five of the story is below, and keep a look out for the poster (*above*) that will identify which Porthcawl shops are taking part in the competition.

The Mysterious Disappearance of Father Christmas' Reindeer

Part 5: The Good Fairy Saintsé

Written by Joël Guerriau (Mayor of St Sébastien sur Loire, Senator and children's author)

Illustrated by Mathieu Redelsperger

Translated by Melanie Weaver (Porthcawl St Sébastien Town Twinning Association)

DRESSED in a precious silky sari, the fairy Saintsé was standing on the edge of a lake. Her long red hair accentuated her slim and long silhouette. She was focusing and getting ready to give life back to the reindeer that had been found.

On the shore stood Father Christmas, accompanied by elves dressed in old boots which went up to their knees, patched jeans, creased shirts and jackets printed with flowers.

Everybody was captivated and impressed by this magical ceremony. The fairy slowly immersed the six little wooden reindeer into the lake, then she held up her arms towards the forest in order to capture the force of nature and whispered in a soft voice her magical formula "Malabatou… Ahiboubou caribou…"

A fine white mist covered the calm water of the lake. One by one, the reindeer emerged, growing little by little until they reached their normal size.

Cries of joy rang out when Comet, the first, leapt onto the shore, followed by the five other reindeer.

They were so happy to find themselves together again, but their joy didn't last when they noticed that their three friends, Dancer, Dasher and Donner were not there.

Suddenly, in the distance, a grey and hairy shape came out of the fir trees and approached slowly. Little by little, you could distinguish long hooves which landed gently on the ground. The dreamy animal breathed in nature's good air.

Donner! Always late and with his nostrils in the wind, he had escaped the poison!

Between the imposing antlers, you could now see Know-it-all making big gestures. At his side two wooden objects were suspended, Dasher and Dancer!

"There is Know-it-all and his informer Donner," Father Christmas guffawed with joy.

"When we learnt that two children had had their figurines stolen, we were on the watch outside Ugly Dora's thatched cottage," explained Know-it-all out of breath.

"When Bright Spark and Ugly Dora came back with their loot stolen from the children, Donner charged at them with his head lowered and his antlers in front. Surprised, Bright Spark let go of his game bag and they ran away without a murmur."

"You are tremendous," exclaimed Father Christmas grabbing hold of Dasher and Dancer.

Everyone applauded the two heroes while the good fairy Saintsé got ready to bring the two reindeer back to life.

Father Christmas did not hold it against Bright Spark. Instead, he proposed that he become his special inventor-advisor and asked him to follow him on his next round with his sleigh Galactic One, so that he would not miss out a single child.

Latest news: we have just learnt that Bright Spark has invented a children's dream catcher which is linked to a machine that makes 'tailor-made' toys.

Never seen before … another brilliant idea!

GEM readers respond to story of young Serb in search for grandfather

by GEM REPORTER

THE Glamorgan GEM recently told the story of a young Serbian man who was appealing to the people of south Wales to help him find out what had happened to his long lost grandfather, who fled a civil conflict.

Slobodan Erdeljan (24), who lives in Belgrade, said his grandfather, Danilo Ljubenko, had travelled to London and then on to Wales during the Second World War.

"My grandfather escaped to London from Belgrade when World War Two started and after that the family lost contact with him.

"The family received a letter, and the address on the envelope referred to a street in south Wales – in Pontypridd."

Over the years, the family received infrequent letters from Pontypridd – and then they stopped. Slobodan suspected, but could not be certain, that his grandfather had died.

He appealed in The GEM for information and has been receiving responses from people who knew his grandfather in Pontypridd.

One said that Mr Ljubenko – "a very gentle person, a lovely man" – was known in Pontypridd as 'Danny', and that he passed away more than 10 years ago. He had lodged with a local family.

Slobodan hopes to visit south Wales one day and see where his grandfather lived out the second half of his life.

Slobodan hopes to visit south Wales to see where Danilo lived.

ABOVE: Danilo Ljubenko.

Maria Battle, Chair of Cardiff and Vale UHB; prostate cancer patient's wife, Mrs Doris Dallimore; prostate cancer patient Mr David Dallimore; Mark Drakeford AM, Minister for Health and Social Services and Professor Howard Kynaston.

Health board introduces robotic cancer treatment

CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board is "proud" to be the first centre in Wales to offer the latest treatment for prostate cancer.

Minister for Health and Social Services, Mark Drakeford AM visited UHW on November 6 to see this pioneering procedure.

The regional service will benefit patients across south and west Wales and delivered by surgeons from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg, Aneurin Bevan, Cardiff and Vale and Cwm Taf University Health Boards.

Robot Prostatectomy, using the da Vinci system, is a procedure which involves precise keyhole surgery to remove the prostate, using robotic techniques.

There are other methods available to surgically remove the prostate which include open surgery and conventional laparoscopic/keyhole surgery but the robotic-assisted method is minimally invasive and is quickly becoming the preferred treatment for the removal of the prostate following the diagnosis of clinically localised prostate cancer.

Mark Drakeford, Minister for Health and Social Services, said, "This robotic treatment system is the first of its kind in Wales, showing how we are investing in the latest hi-tech equipment and procedures to provide the best treatment available for patients."

Professor Howard Kynaston, consultant urological surgeon said, "I'm delighted to welcome the Minister to UHW to view the da Vinci robot.

"This method of treatment for prostate cancer has major benefits over traditional surgical treatment; there's less post-operative pain, reduced blood loss, reduced length of stay, quicker recovery and better overall outcomes for patients.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues across south and west Wales to provide a robotic assisted surgery centre of excellence."

ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Imagine you're on the battlefield
You smell the fumes of the gun.
Imagine you're in the trench,
You feel the mud clench to your boots.
Imagine you're leaning against the trench wall,
You gaze at the sky wondering about your family,
Where they are and if they're ok?

Imagine you're staring across no-man's land,
The land that used to be a beautiful forest.
Imagine you see your friend go over the wall
The friend that never came back.
Imagine you hear the sound of guns
Your heart pounding with fear.

Imagine you are shaking with horror,
You taste the fire burning before you.
Imagine you peer over the top.
You are thinking about those you love.
Imagine you're thinking about those friends.
Where are they? What could they be doing?

This is why we remember them,
Those people who fought for their country.
This is why we think of these people
Because of what they did.

by ROSIE WATTS, *a pupil at St Andrews Church in Wales School.*

Local hospital discharge service

DO you have a relative in hospital and wonder what help is available when they come home? Are you anxious and worried about coping?

Age Connect Cardiff and Vale has its own hospital discharge service which can support you and your loved one with both emotional and practical support.

Hospital discharge provides short term intensive support to older people in their own homes following discharge from hospital.

The service operates over a seven-day period for six to eight weeks.

An adviser will be available to chat on Tuesday, November 18, from 10am to 12 midday at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry.

Contact 01446 732385 for further information or just come along, no appointment is needed.

GF

FOLLOW THE DRAGON IN THE SIX NATIONS!

WELSH rugby fans hoping to see the RBS Six Nations 2015 away games will be able to fly direct from Cardiff to Paris Charles de Gaulle and Rome with low-cost airline Vueling, to see Wales take on France and Italy.

The special flight to Paris Charles de Gaulle departs Cardiff on February 28, 2015, at 9.15am and lands in plenty of time to explore the French capital before heading to the Stade de France for the match.

A special Rome flight departs the day before the Italy v Wales game, on March 20, 2015, meaning fans can enjoy a weekend break in the Italian capital city and return the day after the match. Cardiff Airport's aviation and business development director, Spencer Birns, said: "This is really good news for Welsh rugby fans and is testament to Vueling's commitment to Cardiff Airport.

"As one of our leading airlines, we're pleased that Vueling has recognised what rugby means to the people of Wales by offering these flights in addition to their Spanish programme."

Fans wanting to travel to the Scotland game can fly to Edinburgh with CityJet, who have additional seats available for the weekend away.

CityJet also serves Paris Orly with a daily scheduled service.

For more information on flights and routes from Cardiff Airport, visit www.cardiff-airport.com or to book your 6 Nations flights visit www.vueling.com/en or www.cityjet.com.

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Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.
The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.
Congratulations, Laura!
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Little Liorah's life filled with precious moments

FOR little Liorah McCarthy, every Christmas is particularly special – because when she was born, doctors feared she might not even see her first festive season.

But the brave seven-year-old, who suffered two major strokes shortly after birth, has defied medical expectations and, despite being unable to walk or talk, has enjoyed many precious moments with her family, thanks to the support of Tŷ Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

Liorah and her mum, Tegan, have now been chosen to lead Tŷ Hafan's Christmas 'Precious Moments' appeal which aims to raise funds to create many more such memories for children with life-limiting conditions, by providing emotional and practical support for the youngsters and their families.

Since it was set up 15 years ago, Tŷ Hafan in the Vale has helped more than 600 such life-limited children across a wide area of Wales, and the number continues to grow steadily.

A letter from Tegan is going out to tens of thousands of homes across Cardiff and the Vale this week explaining how the activities and facilities at Tŷ Hafan give Liorah precious experiences the family never thought she could enjoy.

She said: "*When we were first introduced to Tŷ Hafan, we were all blown away by the support they could offer us. Liorah simply loves it there. She can't walk or talk, but she's very determined and knows what she likes. At Tŷ Hafan, her face lights up with a beautiful smile.*"

Tegan is calling on the public to contribute towards creating more of those special moments for children, especially at Christmas.

Tŷ Hafan also wants people to talk about their own 'precious moments' through social media in the run-up to the Christmas season.

Said Jenna Lewis, head of individual giving at Tŷ Hafan: "Life is made up of memorable moments. We'd like people to think about their own particularly special memories and share them online.

"The support that Tŷ Hafan provides extends further than our hospice and is delivered in the family home, at hospital and in schools across Wales. Our hope is that the public will support our Christmas appeal so we can continue providing families with precious moments which they can cherish forever."

It costs £3.7m a year to provide the charity's state-of-the-art facilities at Sully and deliver its support services to families out in the community. An individual donation of £23 would provide an hour of care and support to a child and his or her family. However the charity is urging people to donate what they feel able as the whole operation depends on the generosity of the public.

To make a donation, please visit visit www.tyhafan.org/precious. Share your own precious moments by sending a tweet to @tyhafan with the #preciousmoments.

ABOVE: Liorah with her grandparents.

Barry mum backs launch of National Adoption Service

A BARRY woman who was adopted as a child, is supporting the launch of a new service, designed to speed up the adoption process for Welsh children and prospective adoptive parents.

Sarah Chapple (39) was adopted when she was just four weeks old. She now lives in Barry with her husband Mark, their 10-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter.

She has a close relationship with her adoptive parents. Her parents adopted her through St David's Children Society, a voluntary adoption agency based in Cardiff. She has volunteered as an adoption panel member at Barnardo's Cymru for eight years.

Sarah is now supporting the launch of the National Adoption Service for Wales, which will promote the positive impact of adoption, increase the pool of adopters in Wales and ensure good quality post-adoption support is available to those who need it, wherever they live in Wales.

"Recent statistics show there are 139 children on the Wales adoption register waiting to be matched with a family. While there are 58 adopters referred to the Wales Adoption Register, only 22 are potentially available for these children as many are already having matches with other children considered," a spokeswoman said.

"The new service is being led and delivered by local government, working closely with voluntary sector partners and is a key part of the Welsh Government's plans for transforming the way social services are delivered in Wales."

Festive bazaar

THERE'S a 2014 Christmas Bazaar at Bethel House, Dinas Powys (part of the Hebron Hall complex) on Saturday November 22 from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Crafters are invited to book a table (£5 per table) – these need to be booked by Monday November 17. Contact Sue or Julie on 02920 513 162.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. '*The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.*'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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LOCAL SCHOOL HOLDS OPEN EVENING

ON Wednesday, October 15, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg held its annual open evening.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it the most successful yet. We now look forward to welcoming our largest ever year-7 cohort in September 2015.

Among the activities on show was a gymnastics demonstration.

Katy Hurley

HELP ALFIE FIND OUT WHAT LIFE'S ALL ABOUT!

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

ALFIE is a six-month-old Jack Russell terrier who has missed out on all-important early socialisation, so he is quite sensitive for a young lad.

As a result, Alfie will need gentle, patient handling and owners who won't overwhelm him. He will need to live with a well adjusted dog in the home to show him the ropes, and he will need plenty of off-lead exercise to burn his energy and give him a chance to socialise with other dogs.

Despite his worries, he has improved hugely in his short time with us – he's still a young boy, so in the right hands we are sure he will live up to his full potential! He's a real sweetheart and lots of fun. Alfie can live with children aged 14 or above.

Linda Feagan

Do you need help in getting books from the library service?

At this time of the year, many people find it difficult going out and relish the thought of reading a good book in front of a cosy fire. Are you, or do you know someone who is, an avid reader who can no longer get out to choose books from the library?

Vale of Glamorgan libraries have just the service!

A spokesman said: "We have a team of dedicated volunteers based at libraries throughout the Vale, who choose books and deliver them to readers who, through illness or incapacity are unable to visit the library.

"The home library service can provide books in standard and large print and talking books on CDs or cassettes.

"Why not give our community outreach officer, Andy Griffiths, a call to find out if you are eligible for the Home Library Service?"

Andy visits every 'home borrower' for a chat and to find out their reading tastes and then pairs them with a volunteer at their local library. What could be simpler? Contact Andy on Barry 725381 or email ADGriffiths@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA

Wick fayre

WICK and District Pensioners' Club will be holding their annual Christmas fayre in Wick Village Hall this Saturday, November 15, from 2pm.

Christmas stalls include cakes, books, produce, tombola and toiletries. Wick Youth Club will have a drinks, chocolate and sweets stall. There will also be a grand raffle with numerous prizes.

Admission is 50p to include refreshments. Contact George on 01656 890386 for further information.

Colwinston cinema's Highsmith thriller

ON Saturday, November 15, Colwinston Cinema will be screening *The Two Faces of January* in the Village Hall.

This stylish adaptation of the classic Patricia Highsmith thriller set in 1962 Athens stars Kirsten Dunst and Viggo Mortensen as a wealthy couple with a dark secret who lure a young tour guide into a web of mystery and danger.

Very elegant, very Alfred Hitchcock and with a splendid 1960s feel.

Tickets are £6 on the door or £4.50 in advance from The Sycamore Tree Inn, Colwinston. Doors and bar open at 7pm, with screening at 8pm.

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Age Connect

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale is holding a coffee morning on November 15 at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, from 10am to 12 midday; free admission.

Wide range of new and good quality baby and children's clothes at drop down prices. Contact 01446 732385 for further information. All proceeds of the coffee morning will go to The Ageing Well Project in Barry.

Legal advice

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale is holding a free legal advice session at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, November 18 (10am-12 midday). Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

No appointment necessary.

Tuesday Club

AT Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club on November 18, Mrs Mary Grey will demonstrate flower arrangements for Christmas at 7.45pm.

All welcome.

Diabetes talk

THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK voluntary group will meet on November 18 in the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, from 7.30pm-9pm.

Dr John Gregory will speak on 'Current clinical paediatric trials in diabetes'. Everyone welcome.

Bowls club AGM

THE Llantwit Major Bowls Club will hold its AGM on Thursday, November 20 in the pavilion at 7pm. All members are requested to attend when an important proposition will be discussed and voted on.

Lifeboat hop

PENARTH Lifeboat Shop is selling souvenirs and gifts in order to raise money for the RNLI.

It is situated within the RNLI boathouse on the Esplanade, Penarth seafront, next to the yacht club.

Hours of opening, 2pm to 5pm, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday; Christmas cards, 2015 calandars and diaries in stock.Telephone 02920 711659 for further information.

Two organists in harmony

ON November 23 at 7.30pm in St Augustine's Church, Penarth, well-known organists Robert Court and Jeffrey Howard repeat their very successful Welsh Prom programme.

Playing together and making use of iPads and a piano in various combinations, these two versatile musicians work together in perfect harmony.

The event is being organised by the Friends of St Augustine's Church and the programme includes Saint-Saen's *Danse Macabre*, film themes from *On Golden Pond* and extracts from Mozart's *Symphony No 40*.

Tickets are available on the door at £7 (full), £5 (members of the Friends). Free for children under 11 and £2 for those over 11 and students.

Proceeds will be in aid of the charity Thrive, which supports children with disabilities and their families, and The Friends of St Augustine's, which helps to maintain St Augustine's Church.

Charity quiz

MEMBERS of the Barry committee of Cancer Research UK (Cymru) is holding a quiz night to raise money for cancer research.

It is being held at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry on Wednesday, November 26 at 8pm. Entrance fee is £2 at the door. All are welcome.

Valeways walks

ON Thursday, November 27 at 10am, 'Up one side and down the other', seven-mile walk starting at the Sportsmans Arms, Peterston Super Ely.

On Sunday, November 30 at 2pm, 'coast and parks' starting at the cliff top car park, Penarth.

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"I would recommend Scott Wroe Hearing Centre to anyone who is missing quality of life as a result of hearing loss"
David Burr

"I am extremely grateful for all the help and up to date information I have received from this excellent firm."
Mrs J Thorpe

GRANDIOSE AND EPIC, CHRIS NOLAN'S INTERSTELLAR IS A TREMENDOUS WORK

OVER the course of three *Batman* films (not to mention the underrated *The Prestige* and the rightly-rated *Inception*), Chris Nolan has emerged as a film maker of real power and clout – one of the few directors capable of bringing original, epic in scale films to cinema screens.

Interstellar sees him direct man of the moment, Matthew McConaughey, who plays Cooper, a former NASA test pilot who is tasked with the job of piloting scientists into the furthest reaches of space – and, indeed, beyond – in order to find an alternative planet for humanity to exist on – as earth is becoming weaker and weaker, battered by dust storms that are damaging food sources.

However, on a journey that sees them travel through the galaxy and beyond, the team (including Anne Hathaway and Wes Bentley) soon realise that this is a mission with perils and danger at every turn...

The old saying that "They don't make them like they used to" most certainly applies to cinema.

Where once film makers were given the freedom to create original stories, to test their abilities and not be afraid to dream a little bigger, we now find ourselves in a cinematic landscape where, when a director comes along to do just that, it's seen as something of a rarity.

It's a theme that rears its head early on in *Interstellar*, Matthew McConaughey's Cooper lamenting the fact that where once we looked at the stars, we now look at the floor – a not so subtle dig at Hollywood's conservatism and lack of ambition perhaps, but certainly the fulcrum of Nolan's intentions here.

Yet amidst the hugeness of Nolan's film, you'll find a story that manages to be both heartfelt and intelligent – although some may find its final act pushing the boundaries too far.

Over the course of the last decade, Nolan has shown a vision and scope that outstrips most film makers who have come through in the last 20 years or so, belonging in the same group as Steven Spielberg and Ridley Scott.

Capable of delivering what an audience wants at a scale that astounds and mesmerises, his CV is littered with tremendous visual moments (the city folding in on itself in *Inception*, *The Dark Knight's* 18 wheeler being flipped over).

Over the course of 169 minutes, Nolan leaves no stone unturned in order to create what is easily his most ambitious film to date, both thematically and in terms of its size. That he comes within a hair's breadth of pulling it off shows just how good he is.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

You could easily argue that *Interstellar* is a film that owes a debt to Spielberg's work; there's the space theme, the delicate balance of story and visual ambition, the single parent family being torn apart by circumstances bigger than them – this is arguably Nolan's take on a family film much like *Close Encounters*... was, a melding of big themes to a grounded story.

Once we hit space you have to keep up, as the script, written alongside his brother Jonathan, doesn't try to hide its intelligence, but there's plenty of explanation and subtle exposition to avoid you getting too lost in the plot.

That the brothers are able to marry up the lofty themes of relativity and whether time can be measured as a fourth dimension (try to keep up at the back), along with human concerns of leaving loved ones behind and ensuring the survival of the planet's population, shows a deft touch.

The sticking point is an ending which will easily divide audiences, some seeing it as a suitable way to wrap up proceedings, others a kowtow to conventionality,.

How you take the film overall may depend on your feelings towards the conclusion, but of Nolan's ability to paint on such a grand canvas you will have no doubt.

The performances hit the mark, with Matthew McConaughey maintaining his hot streak with another incredible turn. Many's the career renaissance that has been scuppered by a trip to the blockbuster land, but here McConaughey grounds the film with a performance that leans less on the fantastical, and more on a father leaving his children for what he believes is the greater good – and perhaps never returning.

Nolan has built an all-star cast and there isn't a weak link in the chain, though special attention should be paid to Mackenzie Foy as Cooper's daughter, showing an incredible ability to hold her own with her more illustrious father.

Its ambition cannot be faulted, and it's possibly only in the way it handles its climax that the sheen may come off slightly for some, but *Interstellar* proves not only that Chris Nolan is one of the greatest, most ambitious directors of recent times, but also provides proof that cinema needn't dumb itself down to resonate, in what is an incredible piece of film making.

VERDICT – Grandiose, epic film making that is a feast for the eyes as much as the heart, *Interstellar* is a wonderful example of how visionary directors can create work that has as much style as it does substance.

The cast are great, but this is the Chris Nolan show and he more than lives up to it; the climax may divide the viewer, but there is no doubting the incredible achievement made by the director here. Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Inception* (2010), *Gravity* (2013).

Cardiff Bus to sponsor the Vale Jazz Festival

LOCAL bus operator Cardiff Bus is the first sponsor to be announced in support of the proposed Vale Jazz Festival – it is planned to be held mid-June, 2015.

Cardiff and Vale based Cardiff Bus made a goodwill gesture of supporting the event where they can, and allowing the festival to be advertised on all their vehicles.

Coun Richard Bertin who is one of the organisers, said:

"I would like to thank Cardiff Bus for being the first sponsor to sign up to the jazz festival which, if it gets the go-ahead, will provide entertainment and education for the county.

"This means with the help of Lottery funding and support from others to be announced, we can put on a seaside weekend for both locals and visitors in the area.

Gareth Stevens, Business Development Manager at Cardiff Bus said:

"Cardiff Bus is delighted to support the Vale Jazz festival.

"Being part and parcel of everyday life in the Vale we felt it important to help the event move from an idea to a reality."

SILVER CLAY WORKSHOP

A SILVER clay workshop will be held on November 24 from 10am – 3pm at Sarn Lifelong Learning Centre in Merfield Close.

This course is suitable for complete beginners, organised by Welsh Government-funded Bridgend Communities First. Places are free of charge to those living in Communities First postcode areas. Book in advance on 01656 643693, text: 07815525017, or email: Kaylea.Dowliing@bridgend.gov.uk.

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Proving that Welsh belongs to us all!

ON Wednesday, October 15, Brynteg school took part in the annual 'Diwrnod Shwmae Sumae!' day.

The aim of the day was to celebrate our national language and Wales, and to remind us that the Welsh language belongs to everyone and can be used anywhere.

Pupils and staff were encouraged to start every conversation through the medium of Welsh and to bring a Welsh theme into lessons regardless of the subject. Many pupils and staff took up the invite to wear a red or green jumper to school. In addition to this, the Welsh department organised a lunchtime quiz which was extremely well attended by lower school pupils.

Also, with the help of our AS and A-level Welsh pupils, a 'Bore Coffi Shwmae' was held in both staff rooms and in the sixth form common room where staff and pupils could purchase tea, coffee and cakes, but only if they asked for them in Welsh!

All profits from this went to Tŷ Hafan children's hospice.

This is only the second national 'Diwrnod Shwmae Sumae!' and the first time that we at Brynteg have participated, so hopefully next year will be even bigger and better.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb a helpodd a chymerodd ran. Wela i chi i gyd flwyddyn nesaf! Thank you very much to all who helped and took part. See you all next year!

Article by Mrs K Davies, Welsh department

Warning after van thefts

POLICE are warning van drivers to be on their guard, after a string of thefts across Llangynwyd and Maesteg.

There have been a number of incidents recently where work equipment and tools have been stolen from vans.

Officers in Maesteg are urging anyone who uses a work van to keep their vehicle secure at all times and not to leave anything in it overnight.

PS Mark Davies stated: "We are aware of a series of thefts from vans across the Maesteg area at the moment, and we are working hard to try and identify and catch those responsible. It is really important that anyone who uses a van for work try their best to make life difficult for thieves, and take appropriate security measures.

"We would urge anyone who sees any suspicious activity to report it to police on 101, if you believe a crime is in progress".

The first of the seven thefts was reported on Wednesday, October 8 with the others being reported on Wednesday, October 15 and Saturday, November 8. The thefts occurred in the Llan and Cwmfelin areas, as well as Maesteg.

Anyone with information can call the police on 101, or contact Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Cowbridge at Christmas

Cowbridge... AN EXCLUSIVE TOWN WITH AN INCLUSIVE FEEL!

by
CAROLINE SARLL

Caroline Sarll in Beagles, modelling a wrap as worn by the Duchess of Cambridge!

GOLD, fancy scents and fur... Had the Three Wise Men stumbled across the bustling market town of Cowbridge, their offerings may well have been a tad more commercial, but as I wandered through this vibrant retail hub, soaking up the aroma of scented candles, pine cones, freshly baked mince pies (and a generous helping of rain - thank you, Wales), it was clear that the message oozing from this inviting and evocative town at Christmas is one that combines the aforementioned opulence (*faux fur, of course*) with affordability and originality: quite simply, there is something here for everyone.

There has always been an exclusive feel to the town, but all the traders I spoke to stressed how inclusive Cowbridge also is, to incoming ventures and shoppers alike. New and old businesses spoke of the warmth, camaraderie and reciprocal support amongst traders, all of whom welcome their visitors all year round with an array of quirky, high-quality, individual, competitively-priced goods and, of course, a generous smile.

This Christmas, there will also be the usual plethora of special offers and discounts to entice buyers through the doors.

There are cafés and restaurants aplenty, offering a tantalising range of tasty and restorative refreshments and a welcome refuge for those bulging bags (and feet).

As always, the cash-conserving carrot of free parking and the famous Reindeer Parade (Sunday, November 30, 12 noon start at the Rugby Club; lights on at 4.45pm) makes a Cowbridge shopping trip a Yuletide must, which, incidentally, is a Scandinavian Christmas beverage. Fancy that (or should that be, "Fancy that?" Ho, ho ho).

Nestling in the heart of the Vale, it is no surprise that locally-sourced goods and gifts which fly the flag for Wales are in abundance and very much in vogue this season.

Ditto goods and products which are tailor-made for Cowbridge families, such as the compulsory, yet often hard-to-find, school uniform.

Sally Stephenson, owner of The Pencil Case at 50 Eastgate, stocks the complete kit for the local secondary and primary schools – including, of course, the contents of the pupils' pencil cases.

Inspired by the needs of her young children, Sally has created a vivid, varied and colour-coordinated display of stationery, which is a magnet (also stocked!) for the visitor and especially her target market of the younger customer, many of whom arrive after school, keen to spend their hard-saved pennies:

"They empty their pockets on to the floor and count their coppers out in a line!" says Sally. "Luckily, I have a specific pocket-money section, with items like animal shaped rubber bands and fruit-smelling highlighters."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Claire and Lance at Fich and Ramous.

Julie Jeans (left) of Colours Boutique.

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Cowbridge at Christmas

Goods on display in WG Davies.

ABOVE: Plenty of choice in Beagles.

Variety is the key!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

For the older customer, there is the high-end German Leuchtturm range and for teenagers, the delightfully-patterned Gostationery range, including cupcake-covered notebooks – good enough to eat!

There is also a wide range of Welsh language cards: "The A Level and GCSE congratulation range sold out in days this summer."

Llongyfarchiadau, Sally! On Sunday, November 30, buyers will receive a free bag of reindeer food, which will have a special offer tag attached for future purchases: "I also have a Christmas Postbox for childrens' Wish Lists, for gifts from all over Cowbridge and beyond. I'll then email the parents, hopefully making their pre-Christmas frenzy a little less stressful."

Variety and traditional goods are the key to Arthur John's success. Situated right at the heart of the High Street (No 43), this family hardware, agricultural, equine and home and gardenware business has been serving customers for four generations, or 109 years to be precise.

Alun John, who has worked there since he was a child, has a refreshingly no-nonsense approach to retail, preferring to supply constant good service and a wide range of affordable, reliable, high quality goods to all customers, instead of short-term gimmicks and offers.

"Our winter Barbour range is a good, staple seller at this time of year," says Alun, who is also the chairman of the Chamber of Trade.

I was amazed by the variety of kitchenware, from the delightful Melamaster Robin design sets to the Sweetly Does It cake range, ideal for all budding Mary Berry buffs.

Feeling deprived of a good old retail rummage, since our own Johnny Thomas ironmongers closed in my home town of Porthcawl, I also found myself strangely drawn to the enticing labyrinth of knick-knackery - nails, nuts and bolts, tools, torches and tins of paint.

Redolent of Dickens' Old Curiosity Shop, this store caters for all tastes and needs and has, for me, that value-added attraction, vital to the incurable browser – an upstairs. Is it just me, or don't you just LOVE a shop with a 'More Upstairs' sign? For me, it's the retail equivalent of Hot Chocolate with whipped cream. Or, if you like, the icing on the cake.

Some 75 per cent of women say that the chaps get it wrong when buying them gifts at Christmas. Mine once bought me a red basque two inches shorter than my body. Quasimodo in satin. Not a brilliant look.

Shockingly, one in 20 couples admitted they'd even split up over a poor purchase. So, gentlemen, pin back your ears. Forget undies and other sexy sundries. As long as it's GOOD jewellery (who can ever forget the Gerald Ratner debacle?), you can't go wrong, and in Cowbridge, there is certainly plenty of choice.

JRC Jewellers is another family-run business, which will shortly be commemorating its first year in the town. Owner Rowena Mahoney, who works with her dad, Jonathan, will be staging a special anniversary event in the New Year and is delighted by the way Cowbridge has welcomed them.

"I am so grateful for the way the locals have embraced us. Our original store is in Merthyr Tydfil, so this has been a big step for us. There is such a sense of community in the town," she said.

Specialising in handmade, mostly British-made statement designer pieces, Rowena is keen to emphasise that their jewellery aims to be exclusive, yet bears a range of price tags, suitable for all pockets.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

Jonathan and Rowena at JRC Jewellers.

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Cowbridge at Christmas

Welsh an extra string to Rowena's bow...!

LEFT: Just one part of the vast range stocked at Arthur John on Cowbridge High Street.

ABOVE: Sally Stephens runs The Pencil Case.

You certainly won't be 'hampered' by lack of choice in Cowbridge!

ABOVE: The crochet club at La Mercerie.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

Rowena added: "We source our diamonds from all over the world to get the very best for our customers."

Rowena has another, more patriotic string to her bow, which will appeal to the vibrant Welsh-speaking contingent in the Cowbridge area:

"I'm a fluent Welsh speaker and enjoy talking to other Welsh speakers when they come in. I'm always keen to promote Wales, and have even done voluntary work out in Patagonia." *Da iawn, Rowena!*

Jean Tait, owner of La Mercerie (French for haberdashery, as you ask) at 1 Penny Lane, is proud to stock Welsh hand-dyed yarns from Sue Mayo's workshop at The Old Piggery. "It's vital to support local craftspeople and Sue's colours and wools are amazing."

Jean, who stocks patterns and accessories as well as a wide range of yarns, hosts regular knitting groups every Wednesday in the shop, a crochet group on Fridays and occasional visits from leading knitting and crochet designers, such as Anniken Allis. "Food for the occasions is supplied by Becky at The Eating Place. There is a strong sense in Cowbridge of businesses supporting one another."

She will be celebrating five years in the shop next year and is glad to have realised her dream: "I spent many years as a credit insurance underwriter and also have a law degree, but knitting has always been my passion. There's a real revival going on at the moment, so there's never been a better time to get started."

I arrive home from a long day in Cowbridge with a mental list of gifts for all my family and friends, including my hard-to-buy-for hubbie. There's only one problem I anticipate in making a return trip - too much choice!

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Cowbridge at Christmas

Where shoppers rub shoulders with the famous

RENOWNED for its upmarket image, it is no surprise perhaps, that Cowbridge is often synonymous with celebrity – and no surprise, therefore, that many of the businesses have welcomed well-known faces through their doors over the years, ***writes CAROLINE SARLL.***

Do not be surprised if you find yourself rubbing shoulders with one or two personalities as you meander through the centre this Christmas!

Colours Boutique (66 Eastgate) was recently taken over by former manager Julie Jeans, who was amazed one day to find Warren Gatland sitting on one of the shop's chairs. "I hadn't seen him coming in, so it took my breath away and I felt myself blushing. He just sat patiently waiting for his wife, Trudi, while she browsed."

Other well-known faces include local newsreaders and clientele from the Welsh media world.

Julie, who still works closely with the previous owners, has adopted a conservative, if-it-ain't-broke approach to the business, which is clearly working well for her. "My plan is to keep things as they are. The shop has been successful for almost 30 years, so I see no reason to change it".

Boasting an array of top designers such as Frank Lyman and Gina Bacconi, you'll find rail after rail of beautiful garments in colour-coordinated sections, ranging from gorgeous grape to seasonal red.

Colours also stocks footwear, handbags and other accessories – a top-to-toe service: "We also specialise in mother of the bride outfits and enjoy toasting our customers with a glass of bubbly when they've made their choice". (*Note to self: find daughter a fiancé right now...)*

On the day I visit, regular customer, Jackie Richardson from Pencoed, is buying a chiffon blouse with her daughter, 20-year-old fashion student, Samantha.

"We have shopped here for many years," says Jackie, "including when my elder daughter, Jennifer, got married. We started by buying evening gowns for our first family cruise – and we have never stopped coming!"

Colours will be offering a 10 per cent discount to customers, plus mince pies and mulled wine during their late night opening. In a nod to the boutique's timeless quality, Samantha has chosen to base her final year project on Colours.

"It's been an inspiration" she says, before mum and daughter, carrying their latest purchase, move on for coffee and a rest in the neighbouring Arboreal.

The aptly-named **Fich and Ramous** (75 Eastgate) is, of course, no stranger to stardom. Earlier this year, as reported in The GEM, the business was featured in *Stella*, the Sky drama starring and created by Porthcawl girl, actress and writer Ruth Jones.

Now that staff and customers have been immortalised on film, the thriving hair and beauty salon, run by Lance Pryor-Collins and his wife Claire, has a real appetite for the A-lister life.

On November 21, the salon will be hosting a charity event in conjunction with Cowbridge Comprehensive and are expecting two top designers to be among the guests – Vivienne Westwood and Matthew Williamson, no less. Well, almost anyway.

"Art and DT pupils from Cowbridge Comp are decorating six foot Juicy Couture mannequins in the style of these designers," says Claire. "I got the idea from seeing the famous Cow Parade designs and thought it would be inspiring not to dress, but to paint the mannequins.

"Proceeds from the evening will go to the Goedgedacht Trust in South Africa, supported by the school, which is hoping to send more pupils out to help next year. Local dignitaries and, hopefully, a few real personalities will be attending."

Getting the mannequins to Cowbridge was not an easy task: "Lance and I had to transport them back from Hitchin in Hertfordshire in the back of our car.

"We had to take them apart – and there were arms and legs sticking out everywhere.

"We got some pretty funny looks coming down the M4!"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

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Cowbridge at Christmas

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We regret that we have to formally announce the closure of RB's previously known as Rock Bottom from Cowbridge high street. Unfortunately as the trend for multi national companies dominating the high street continues to gather pace, we found ourselves experiencing overwhelming competition. RB's has been able to support many of the town's and local community events over the past 14 years and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your custom and loyalty

We are pleased to say the majority of products and services including glass hire will still continue to be available from our filco store next door.

Cornucopia of delights, and a thank you from the President!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

Beagles Country Store in Willow Walk, Old Mason's Yard, is a cornucopia of country and cosy-home delights, but owner and former NHS manager Claire Donovan, who started the business with her husband, obstetrician Bryan Beattie, is just as keen to emphasise the business' royal connection: "I can't say that she's visited - yet - but we stock the same Really Wild claret tartan wrap which the Duchess of Cambridge wore to church last Christmas.

"It's a cashmere mix and is really beautiful. It looks stunning with one of our handcrafted brooches by Carmarthenshire artist, Miranda Bowen.

"I try to stock as many Welsh items as possible, supporting the rural economy, and am happy to hear from anyone who thinks they have something we might like."

With the unique scent of Neath-based Valley Mill's Christmas tree scented candle wafting through the store, I felt warmly embraced. Enraptured, you could say. Which is why I ended up modelling the said wrap for a photo (*see page 18*). Princess Caroline of Cowbridge? Very la-di-da.

I also spotted a superb range of button-decorated ceramics by Irish homeware company, Avoca, whose homely ethos has inspired Claire – ideal for celebrating National Button Day (seriously) on November 16.

Later this month, Claire is commemorating the shop's first birthday in true entrepreneurial style – by opening another business!

"We are delighted to be launching a creperie just next door," says Claire enthusiastically. "I always wanted to combine lovely things to buy, with lovely things to eat. I favour traditional fabrics, wood and metal. There's a homespun, heartfelt feel to what we do."

Claire, who welcomed me and subsequent shoppers with the cheeriest of greetings, also favours top-notch customer service: "It's our top priority. How can you expect customers to come here instead of going to Cardiff, if you don't offer them outstanding service?"

She will be offering a 10 per cent reduction and free mulled wine during late night openings and hopes to be able to greet Dragonfly, the reindeer they have sponsored, on the day of the parade.

Award-winning jewellery designer Emma Kate-Francis (First Floor, 85 Eastgate) has experienced the endorsement of one of the most famous men in the world - President Obama.

Emma-Kate made a pair of commemorative cufflinks for the US President during the Nato conference and was thrilled to receive a personal thank you letter from him.

"It has given me – and the business – a real fillip."

Emma-Kate, who hails from Brighton and trained at the Royal College of Art in London, as well as in Germany, feels that Cowbridge has welcomed her and her business, which she aptly calls a "hidden gem" due to its first floor location, with open arms.

A seaside girl at heart, she also feels that her hometown and the local Welsh coastline has inspired many of her pieces, particularly the fluidity of her signature Calla Lily range, which combines undulating sterling silver and rose gold with freshwater pearls.

Emma-Kate recently represented Wales during a UKTI visit to Mexico, where she had yet another brush with celebrity. "Lawrence Llewelyn Bowen was one of the delegates. It was all very exciting and a privilege to represent Wales."

She will be hosting a late night in the studio on November 27, offering nibbles and a 20 per cent discount."

There is, indeed, nothing like a dame – particularly one as notable as Oscar-winning actress, Dame Judi Dench. Catriona Davies, owner of WG Davies newsagent (38 High Street) was sorting some stock last month, when Pat, one of her regular staff, whispered to her "Look! Look down there. It's Dame Judi Dench!"

Catriona glanced at the two elderly ladies browsing through the lovely display of gifts in the shop – and couldn't believe her eyes.

"It was definitely Dame Judi. I was so nervous, and actually disappeared into the store room for a moment to compose myself."

Catriona then wandered over and said: *"Hello, Dame Judi. How lovely to have you in our shop*." She replied with that beautiful, distinctive voice, so polished and polite – '*May I tell you that this is a really delightful shop*?'

"I desperately wanted to take a photo of her, but decided against it, and I think that's why she stayed, and why she bought a considerable number of gifts.

"It was so lovely. She was telling me which family member each gift was for with great affection.

"La De Da handstamped vintage cutlery for one, Marlene Hounam handmade jewellery for another, and then her mobile rang.

"The ringtone was, wait for it... the James Bond theme tune!" What else for the actress who portrayed Bond's M?

With around 10 local newsagents closing every week nationwide, Catriona, husband Trevor and their four children have cleverly diversified over the years, to ensure that the 52-year-old family business stays afloat.

As well as their eclectic gift section, with natural, wooden products influenced by Catriona's Scandinavian mother, their open, inviting shop boasts an art gallery with originals from Welsh artists and a large card section.

Everything is reasonably priced – another reason for their longevity. Has Catriona recovered from Dame Judi's visit? "I think so, and she's not the first celebrity to come in. Tom Jones and Ronnie Corbett have also shopped here." Wow.

The message is clear. Take your wallet (and a brolly!) when you hit the Cowbridge shops, but, crucially, don't forget to pop an autograph book in your bag. Or has the trend for selfies with celebrities put paid to that particular gift?

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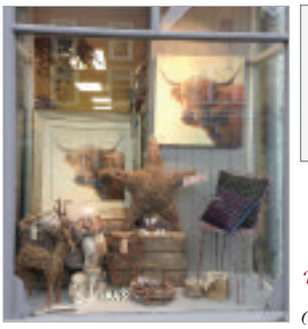

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NEWS UPDATE FROM LLANTWIT MAJOR BOYS BRIGADE

A TEAM of three from 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade took part in the BB National Table Tennis competition on Saturday, November 8.

They travelled to Bath, where they received a warm welcome but, unfortunately, were knocked out of the competition. The boys played very well; well done to Michael Ellis, Jake Newton and Luke Thomas.

The company was proud to participate in Remembrance Sunday. The Anchors, Juniors and Company Section all looked very smart and it was a privilege to be able to pay our respects in this way.

Mrs D Chapman
(Officer, 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade)

Lining up on parade.

LLANTWIT FIRST LEADER IS PUZZLED OVER REGIONAL AM'S MEET WITH 'COUNCILLORS'

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Leader of the Llantwit First Independents, Coun Gwyn John, has responded angrily, after regional AM Andrew RT Davies demanded "clarity" on plans to alleviate flooding in Boverton in an article in last week's GEM.

Mr Davies said last week that surveyors had been seen around Boverton Brook and said he was seeking a progress report.

Coun John said: "I am delighted that Andrew RT Davies AM is showing an interest in the flooding issues at Boverton, it is a pity his party did not act on the flooding problems at Boverton when they had the chance to do so.

"When they were in control of the Vale Council, they let the residents down by failing to support the proposals for a new culvert."

He went on to say that he was puzzled by Mr Davies' claim that he had met local councillors to discuss the situation.

He said: "No doubt he is unaware that all councillors at Llantwit Major are Llantwit First, and he met none of them, so whom did he meet?

"No doubt he met former Conservative councillors at Llantwit Major who are no longer in office, having lost their seats to Llantwit First Independents in the 2012 election, and they have no knowledge of current issues."

Coun John continued: "As mentioned in the report, the Vale Council has committed £250,000 to the scheme for a new culvert. When the design is presented to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government, it will be up to them to make up the funding for the work to proceed.

"A further meeting will be called shortly to update the residents, which Mr Davies will have the opportunity to attend, along with all Llantwit First Councillors."

Andrew RT Davies AM said: "This has been an on-going problem in Boverton for some years now and many residents and businesses are understandably frustrated by what appears to be plenty of warm words and not much action.

"It is fair to say that politicians of all colours have worked to resolve the issue and a bid did go in for funding during the previous Conservative council.

"Unfortunately, the criteria applied to these applications by the old environmental agency (now Natural Resources Wales) has in the past penalised Boverton because it is less densely populated than some other areas affected by flooding.

"I look forward to working with politicians of all parties to address this issue and I'm sure that residents ultimately just want to see progress made."

The Art Central Friends welcome a photographer and ceramicist for talks!

ART Central FRIENDS have announced that their next talk will be on Thursday, November 20 at 7.30pm at Art Central Gallery.

The two speakers – photographer Jon Pountney and ceramicist Tracey Baker, are currently exhibiting their work under the title 'Remembering the Great War'.

The public is invited to attend and doors open at 7pm. Refreshments will also be served.

Anyone interested in joining Art Central FRIENDS can join for £10 on the night, apply to P Temple Murray, 31 St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QW, or visit the website at www.artcentralfriends.org

Also on December 4, at Art Central, artist Helen Sear, who has been chosen to represent Wales at the 2015 Venice Biennale, has agreed to give us an illustrated talk about her work.

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NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
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email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

London triumph

I WOULD like to thank secretary John Jones for this information: the Ogmore Valley male voice choir was warmly welcomed at Goldsmith's Hall in the City of London – it had been invited to perform at the Lord Mayor of London's final banquet to complete her year of office.

On arrival, the choir were provided with a sumptuous evening meal and drinks, with ex-teacher musical director Eira Paskin keeping a close eye on the imbibers who, in all fairness kept things in perspective realising the importance of the occasion!

The luxurious surroundings did not faze the intrepid choristers when they entered the banqueting hall to perform in front of the Lord Mayor, Fiona Woolfe and her numerous guests.

Each item of the programme was given a rapturous applause, with a demand for an encore at the finale, which again was well received from the appreciative and attentive audience.

Eira, and Gareth Waite accompanist, were singled out for their performances and the choir were then invited to mingle and chat with the Lord Mayor and her invited guests in an adjacent room in which champagne and wines were on offer.

Needless to say, the choristers accepted the invitation and conducted themselves as if to the manor born!

The long trip back home was shortened by the exciting chatter of the choristers having performed in such luxurious surroundings and in front of such distinguished guests.

As one wag said, quoting Dylan Thomas: "Thank the Lord we are a musical nation".

On Friday, November 21 the choir will be performing in the Railway Club, Tondu (by the station car park) to help Alzheimer's sufferers in ward one, at Glanrhyd hospital.

The choir rehearses at its own premises at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale on Thursdays from 7pm; new members and visitors will be most welcome.

Toys collection

SALVATION ARMY, Maesteg is again organising a toy collection for children whose parents are unable to provide them with Christmas gifts.

To assist in raising money to provide toys, it is holding a Christmas carol concert at Bethal Community Church, Castle Street, Maesteg on Friday, November 28 at 7.15pm.

There will be two local choirs assisting the audience as they sing the carols – namely, the marvellous Noteworthy mixed voice and Maesteg's own children's choir, with Oliver Forwood singing a solo piece, and the well-known Harvey Rees playing a trumpet fanfare.

Music will also be provided by the Salvation Army band.

Bogus callers

I HAVE received notification of bogus callers in the Cefn Cribwr area, purporting to be representatives of Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water) so please be vigilant.

If you are in any way suspicious ask the caller for their telephone number and you will call them back. You can call Welsh Water on 0800 281 141, to confirm if it is a genuine call, report any suspicious activity to the police on 101.

Well done!

YOUNGSTERS in Sarn, one of the most disadvantaged Bridgend areas, have set out to prove pundits wrong.

During the summer holidays 70 different youngsters completed Bridgend library's 'summer reading' challenge. In the whole of the county borough, only one other library had a bigger take-up of readers and that was Porthcawl, a far more prosperous area.

Because of the interest displayed by these youngsters the librarian Stacey Thomas at Sarn Life Centre has set up a junior reading group at the library. Everyone must be congratulated for their efforts.

Advice for carers

ON November 26 at Bridgend Carers' Centre, Park Street, Bridgend it is intended to promote information on support available to carers.

It will cover legal advice and welfare; there will be representatives from Bridgend CBC social services, Howell's solicitors, Parkinson's UK, Hafal, Crossroads Care, Alzheimer's society, Age Connect, Macmillan, the Stroke Association, Action for Children and Y Bont available to offer advice.

At present, there are approximately 18,000 carers in the Bridgend CBC area, 13 per cent of the overall population. They provide an unpaid, caring role to relatives, partners, friends, or neighbours who are ill, disabled, frail or addicted.

Tondu Primary school

CARERS and friends of children in Mr Sullivan's class Llynfi can join the class assembly today, November 13 at 10.20am and stay afterwards for a 'linger and learn session'.

The school will be celebrating the BBC's 'Children in Need' event today, and the theme will be 'Heroes'.

The PTFA will be holding its Christmas fair on Thursday, November 27 in the Meadow Street school building at 2pm. The school choir will be providing entertainment, and Father Christmas will be in attendance. There will be a number of stalls at which Christmas goodies can be obtained.

School attendance

AT Tynyrheol Primary school, Llangeinor, Miss Kerry Jones the acting headteacher has supplied the following attendance figures at the school for October: class 1 – 91.5 per cent, class 2 – 96.6 per cent, class 3 – 95.6 per cent. Class 2 are the attendance champions for the month of October, now have a certificate on their classroom door and are the holders of the attendance cup for the next month. The class achieved the distinction of having no unauthorised absences, and will be given 10 minutes' extra play time.

The school's unauthorised absences have dropped to 0.4 per cent of the total, and it hopes in November it will be zero.

Authorised attendances are for illness and medical appointments only.

The staff has been discussing the importance of values with the children and a list has been put in place and how they can be achieved.

One value will be chosen each week and last week it was 'sensitivity'. Certificates were presented to the pupils who throughout the week consistently displayed this value.

They were class 1 – Gwen Lewis, class 2 – Roman Pook, class 3 – Lloyd Grabham.

Next week's value will be 'responsibility' which a child can achieve with completing homework, reading and tidying up etc.

Sweden bound

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir is travelling to Southampton to raise funds to assist the parents of an unfortunate young girl. Evie is one in 168 million and has defied the odds to survive to date.

Evie lives at home and attends a special school three mornings a week, she has one-to-one care while there and medical help is available if necessary. She is entitled to respite care at Naomi house for a certain number of days a year. Her brother Elliot is her carer full time and her mother works more than full time to help.

After fundraising events in June and September, the parents have been able to pay for an upgrade to a motability vehicle, which will be available after her birthday on December 24.

Architects are in the process of drawing up plans for alterations to the house to include bathrooms which will be accessible to Evelyn, for which money will be required.

The choir rehearses at the Royal British Legion Club on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm, and new members are welcome.

Donation to Foodbank

THE new Ynysawdre comprehensive school Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen has the motto 'Taking Pride' and the pupils do take pride not only in their school work but also helping in the community.

At the school's recent harvest festival, the items collected were donated to Bridgend Foodbank.

Village's Christmas fayre

CHRISTMAS Fayre at Newton Institute on Saturday, November 15 starting at 2pm.

There will be a raffle, cakes, tombola and gifts galore all at very reasonable prices. Why not come along and start your Christmas shopping? Tickets £1 include a glass of wine or tea/coffee.

At Ynysawdre Comprehensive School Year-13 head girl Charlotte Evans and year-13 head boy Matthew Steddy are shown with items that were donated to Bridgend Foodbank.

ROCK FALL CLOSES SECTION OF WALES COASTAL ROUTE

by PHILIP IRWIN

A SECTION of the Wales Coastal Path will need to be re-routed after a cliff fall near St Donats.

The fall happened in the early hours of Thursday, November 11, between Tresilian Bay and St Donats.

Andy Yorath, who lives in Llantwit Major, told The GEM he believed he was the first on scene, when he took his regular morning walk with his dog, Georgi.

He told The GEM: "I called the Vale Council so that they could send out someone to inspect the damage and block off the route, which is now treacherous just west of Tresilian Bay.

"There is currently no access between here and St Donats. Because some of the students at Atlantic College use this route for jogging, or to get to Llantwit, I also called their principal's office to warn them.

"When approaching from the west, particularly if running, the danger is less evident until almost at the site of the collapse."

He continued: "I'm just happy not to have been walking on the rocks below or indeed across that section of the cliff top path when the collapse took place.

"Only yesterday afternoon, I walked that section of path with my dog while a tractor worked in the adjacent field.

"I don't think I would want to risk taking a tractor anywhere near that end of the field now, having witnessed the thousands of tons of rock that have collapsed less than a metre from the corner boundary of that field."

ABOVE: Andy Yorath's dog Georgi, pictured in front of the recent rock fall. BELOW: The coastal path is rudely interrupted!

The Vale Council's public rights of way officer, Gwyn Teague, said: "We received reports of a cliff fall just west of Tresilian Bay affecting the Wales Coastal Path on Friday morning.

"An inspection has been made by the public rights of way team, and our initial estimates are that the fall has taken the cliff top back inland by around 10 metres at its deepest.

"The fall is approximately 25 metres in width and has resulted in the loss of a small section of the coast path.

"We have been in contact with the landowner and have undertaken work to provide a temporary alternative route by opening a section in the adjoining fence.

"In addition we will be blocking off and providing signage around the immediate area of the fall to ensure the path can stay open safely."

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...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

It's extra special when the Christmas lights go on in the High Street!

IT'S always a special Barry occasion when the High Street traders switch on the Christmas lights – and this year it will take place on Friday, November 28.

Both Barry High Street and Barry Island Road will be closed from 3.30pm to 9.30pm, so that the various planned entertainment can take place.

Everyone will be welcome and, as usual, there will be no shortage of things to do and see.

The High Street Traders have always seen this occasion as a chance to give something back to their loyal customers, and this year will be no different.

See next week's GEM for more details of the event.

Barry High Street bucks the trend...

AND IS GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE suburban High Street shopping centre is supposed to be in big trouble these days, with great retail minds – and Mary Portas – constantly looking at the 'problem' and offering solutions.

However, take a stroll down Barry High Street – even on a wet afternoon in November – and you will come away with the feeling that the problem has been more than somewhat exaggerated.

After all, Barry High Street is the perfect example of a street that has developed into a retail area naturally, because there was a local demand for it.

Stand at one end, and it stretches out into the far distance, clearly designed originally as a residential area. The shops came later, responding to a local need.

That need is still there, and the street has evolved to meet it.

Broad Street runs parallel to High Street, and each adds extra options to the retail mix.

Over the last 12 months, new shops have opened – particularly in the fashion sector – and it now offers a fascinating variety.

There are no big, all-encompassing stores, but a genuine variety of individual shops which have everything their customers need, plenty that they desire – and a great deal that is just plain new!

You will find the traditional butcher and green grocer alongside smart boutiques. The number of high street staples, hairdressers, estate agents, florists and coffee bars confirm how important the area is to the local population.

Similarly, High Street and Broad Street offer a huge choice of dining options – from local deli options to Italian, Chinese or Turkish.

One business looking forward to its first Christmas in High Street is *Beautiful Lily*, which was opened eight months ago by Helen Huggins.

She told The GEM: "Things have been very good since we opened. I've worked hard on the look of the shop, and have had lots of compliments about the window displays."

The shop looks good inside and out, and Helen has found that her sofa, which is there to help customers relax while they choose wedding decorations or bouquets, is popular with regulars who just stop off for a break and to take in the surroundings.

One thing that has surprised Helen since she opened is the number of customers who travel from elsewhere in the Vale to see what's new in High Street. As a result, she now has regulars from Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Dinas Powys!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY CHRISTMAS EVENT

FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2014

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 28th November 2014	**High Street Barry**, between Market Street and East Street	3.30pm to 9.30pm
	Island Road Barry, between Broad Street and Queen Street	3.30pm to 9.30pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.
Dated this 13th day of November 2014
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Director of Visible Services & Housing
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High Street, so much to offer!

Barbra Archdale-Smith at Photo Art.

Ian and Jo Weavers at Butterflies.

Balloons are Dr Bob's speciality!

Helen Huggins at Beautiful Lily.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)

She added: "I'm already getting orders for Christmas table decorations and wreaths, and the key is being able to offer good quality goods at value for money prices."

Another new business in Barry High Street – and this one only opened on November 1 – is *The Queen B*, which is owned by Jodie Tanner, who was still getting her breath back after a hectic opening weekend.

The Queen B has caused a stir because it has been trading very successfully in Penarth for five years, and now Jodie has decided to bring its mix of ladies' fashion, accessories and gifts to Barry.

She said: "We had a phenomenal response on the opening Saturday, and I have had to bring three van loads of replacement stock across this week."

She puts the success of *The Queen B* down to her determination to offer something different to her customers, while keeping the prices keen and offering an "amazing" service.

She said: "I spend a lot of time in London, buying brands that are not on sale in this area. We also make sure that the stock is changed on a regular basis, so customers will always find something new here."

She strongly believes that customers prefer to buy from independents who are showing initiative and offering a good service.

She added: "We did find in Penarth that Barry people were not coming to us, so we decided to come to them – and I'm really glad we did!"

The feeling that customers want to support their local business certainly strikes a chord with Tony Hopkins, who runs *Vic Hopkins Butchers* and was the chairman of the High Street Traders group for many years.

After all, local businesses tend to pay their tax in this country - not Luxembourg!

He said: "We have offered a real service for many years now. We offer continuity of supply and good quality, and people like that."

At this time of year, of course, Tony is gearing up for Christmas orders. He said: "Our turkeys have come from the same farm in Pembrokeshire for 18 years now – proper turkeys from a proper farm – and we still expect the traditional long queues just before Christmas."

In recent years, the High Street Traders have introduced late night opening on a Thursday in the run up to Christmas, and Tony is a firm believer in this. He said: "As we get closer to Christmas, more and more shops are joining in. Our shop is offering Thursday shoppers a free entry into a draw for a Christmas turkey!"

Returning to the fashion aspect of the area, another business that has built up a real relationship with customers is *Jade*, run by Jane James, who started in Broad Street 28 years ago and is now in Barry High Street. She welcomed the new shops who have opened in recent years, and said that the extra variety was definitely attracting more customers.

The area is equally strong on gift shops – and again the traders put it down to good service and keen prices – plus that extra something that can be quite hard to define.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 27)

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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY
...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Nathan at Food for Thought.

Some of the gifts at Miss Holmes.

A great range of stock at Jade fashions.

The men at Vic Hopkins Butchers!

ABOVE: The Izmir is a great place to go for Greek/Turkish food.

Something for everyone...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)

Miss Holmes is a good example of this. Calling it a gift shop doesn't quite hit the mark, because there is something quite eccentric in the product range.

Popular items here are the Willow Tree range of figurines, watches and necklaces, distinctive gift cards, and a wide range of home fragrance diffusers – laid out in cabinets that make the shop really attractive to browse around.

Nicola, the owner, is best placed to explain the rationale behind the eclectic mix, and she says: "I think a good gift shop should tick all the boxes.

"Men, women, boys and girls should all be able to find something to buy for a friend or relative. Miss Holmes is indulgent without being over-priced, and stocks the latest of what's out there."

Another shop that is thriving because it has found its niche in the marketplace is *Butterflies* – run by the husband and wife team of Ian and Jo Weavers.

It is hard to miss *Butterflies,* as two giant toy soldiers stand guard outside, but inside it offers a huge variety of gifts.

Jo said: "Business is definitely on the up, and we have been busier each year since we opened in 2008. People have responded to the extras that we offer, such as gift wrapping goods for free, and free local deliveries if you spend £10."

The biggest selling range in the store, however, is Yankee Candle products.

Sales have continued to grow since they introduced them, and Jo said that their prices were so good that they now had customers buying via the internet from all over the UK.

She puts this surge in interest down to the successful launch of their Facebook page (*yankee candles in barry*) which showcases the different hampers of Yankee Candle products that *Butterflies* can put together.

Also in Barry High Street is *Giggles Toy Shop*, where Jill Mathews is putting her years of experience as a nursery nurse to good use, with a wide range of traditional toys on offer, with the accent on helping children learn as they play.

It won't be long before Jill celebrates *Giggles'* second birthday, and she offers a wide range that includes art sets, dress-up dolls, dressing up clothes and puzzles.

She said: "One thing that has become more and more popular is Welsh language children's books, and I have increased the range to cope with the demand.

"The Welsh Book Council has been a great help as well."

Jill also stocks a range of Welsh posters, and even has a talking bear that speaks Welsh!

Giggles shares its space with another business, and one half of the window display often has people stopping and taking a second look.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

ABOVE: Successful Penarth boutique The Queen Bee has opened in Barry.

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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY

...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Wales in the shop window

Salon 23 – a contempoary salon for the latest styles.

Fay Blakeley offers handcrafted Welsh gifts at Homemade Wales.

Jill Mathews of Giggles Toy Shop – with a bear that actually speaks Welsh!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

What draws their attention is photographs of Barry – at the moment, there are some striking shots of areas of the town lightly blanketed in snow.

The photographs are by *Photo Art* – a business run by Barbra Archdale-Smith – who has created a substantial portfolio of photos, showing the town in all seasons and moods.

She has a window display and a room in *Giggles*, and that room always attracts compliments for the quality of the photos on display.

They have one thing in common – they were all taken by Barbra – and while the majority are of Barry and the surrounding area, there are others which chronicle Barbra's travels with her camera to photogenic places such as Venice!

Another very interesting shop is *Homemade Wales*, at 5 Island Road, which specialises in handcrafted Welsh gifts and home wares. With a background in branding and marketing, new owner Fay Blakeley understands the importance of having a unique edge on today's high streets.

Originally from Barry, Fay studied and worked in advertising for London agencies, before returning home and setting up her own design agency, Sweet, which was responsible for re-branding the Wales Millennium Centre.

Now Fay has turned her attention to retail and believes that the shop's offering of Welsh gifts and home wares is perfect for Barry. She said: "With six Welsh medium primary schools and one secondary school, the cultural landscape of Barry and the Vale is changing.

"But, whether you're Welsh-speaking or English-speaking, it's important to celebrate our heritage."

It's a heritage she's looking forward to exporting nationally and internationally in the New Year when she plans to take the shop online.

Another local business making plans for Christmas is *Beauty Basics* in Broad Street, which is creating a Santa's Grotto on three days (Sundays, December 14 and 21, and Tuesday, December 23) with proceeds going to the local Foodbank.

The Barry High Street and Broad Street area has never been short of cafes, bars and restaurants, and there is still a great deal of choice today, whether you want to sit down or take away.

The Food for Thought deli has been trading there for 30 years and has learned to constantly adapt to changing tastes. Owner Nathan told The GEM that there had always been a demand for good quality rolls and sandwiches, while there was huge variety in other areas of the business.

He said: "With Christmas in mind, we have stocked up with American drinks, chocolates and Pop Tarts. Closer to home, we will have a bigger than ever range of Welsh cheeses.

"We have also added a range of Welsh honeys – with some unusual added flavours, including ginger, cinnamon and chili!"

He added that he was very pleased to see new shops opening, and that he was delighted to support this year's Christmas lights switch on.

In Broad Street, another established business, *Scarlets* wine bar, has something to celebrate before Christmas. Kath and Ron have been running *Scarlets* for nine years, and are looking forward to celebrating Beaujolais Day, which this year falls on November 20.

With live music every Friday and Saturday, and with the autumn rugby internationals in full swing, the festive season is definitely a busy time for *Scarlets*.

Nearby, on the corner of Broad Street and Island Road, is *Izmir* – a Turkish and Greek restaurant – which is celebrating its number one status on TripAdvisor.

The owner, Mr Ali, told The GEM that it showed the level of customer satisfaction with both the quality of food and the ambience of the restaurant.

People already familiar with Greek/Turkish cuisine find the food high quality, and entertainment can include belly dancing for any patrons celebrating a special occasion. *Izmir* also has a late night licence until 2am, which gives diners plenty of time to enjoy their evening.

Specialities include Stifado, lean pieces of beef cooked very slowly with onions, tomatoes, wine, herbs and spices.

Anyone interested in trying out the cuisine can take advantage of a two-course lunch on weekdays for £6.95 (£7.95 on Sundays), with a two-course meal available in the evening for £10.95. Even the 'Grand Meze' – a four-course special, is only £22.95. The *Izmir* also makes its menu available for take away (with a 10 per cent discount) but it does not deliver.

With the festive season in mind, Mr Ali has launched the restaurant's Christmas party menu (£25 per head), and also offers a special Christmas lunch (£44.50 per person), and a special New Year's Eve night package (£42.50).

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Scouts are on parade for Remembrance at Rhoose

THE sun was shining (above) as 1st Penmark with Porthkerry Scout Group joined many other residents and local organisations in the Rhoose Remembrance Parade on November 9.

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from 1st Penmark with Porthkerry were all involved in the parade. The rain held off as the group made its way through the village to the Community Centre, where wreaths were laid and a service was held.

Local family are left distressed after prized gold watch is stolen

POLICE in Penarth are appealing for information following a burglary at a house on Clive Crescent, between 2pm and 4.30pm on Saturday, November 8.

A gold pocket watch and chain, which was presented to a family member in 1917 when he was awarded the Military Medal, was stolen.

Local Policing Inspector Chris Owen said: "The stolen watch has great sentimental value to the victim. It was presented to his great uncle by the community of Treherbert in recognition of being awarded the Military Medal in 1917.

"To have such a possession stolen is very distressing for the victim – particularly on the weekend we remember the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War."

"We are appealing to anyone who may have any information concerning this incident, or who may have any information which will lead to the recovery of the stolen watch, to contact South Wales Police on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111, and quote reference 1400418954."

Stagecoach pupils among the stars!

CHILDREN at a local theatre arts group are performing alongside some of the West End's biggest stars at a fundraising event in Cardiff.

A Night at the West End on November 16 will see Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge pupils appearing with West End stars, including Peter Karrie and Britain's Got Talent performer Charlotte Jaconelli, an ex-Stagecoach student, and other Stagecoach pupils from across Wales.

The event will donate funds raised to the Tŷ Hafan children's hospice at Sully and the Stagecoach Performance Opportunities Fund.

Bridgend and Cowbridge Stagecoach principal, Rob Reynolds, said: "We're so excited to be a part of this event at St David's Hall.

"We're also raising money for the STA National Children's Choir of Wales, who have been invited to represent the UK in a performance competition in Disney World Florida in 2016. Our students have been working so hard this term and they're thrilled to be able to sing alongside their heroes."

For more information visit the website http://www.stagecoach.co.uk/bridgend or call 01446 772727.

Music in the Vale

THIS weekend November 15-16, the annual competition takes place at Stanwell School, Penarth, organised by Music in the Vale to seek the best instrumental and vocal musicians, aged eight to 24.

It will be held during the day and the finalists are asked to perform at a Gala Concert which starts at 7pm each day (doors open at 6.30pm). Entry is free.

The Vale Council hits back over pothole pay-outs

THE Vale Council has hit back after a report in the national media branded it as the second-highest payer of pothole compensation claims, *writes PHILIP IRWIN.*

The report, based on information obtained by the insurance company LV=Road rescue, said that the Vale Council had paid out £152,045 in compensation so far this year.

A council spokesman responded, saying that the figures were not based on like-for-like comparisons, and insisted that the correct pothole compensation figure was £18,295.

Certainly, any layman looking at the information would have found a number of puzzling aspects.

For instance, at number three in the list is Surrey County Council, with a payout of £134,304 for a total of 3,024 claims.

This contrasts with the Vale Council, where only 148 claims racked up the £152,045 compensation pay-out.

This gives such a vast differential in the average pay-out that it is hard to believe that like is being compared with like.

A Vale Council spokesperson stated: "The figure quoted in the LV insurance press release is based on an FOI for claims as a result of all carriageway defects.

"This definition covers a wide range of highway issues such as uneven road surfaces, water pooling, damaged or stolen manhole covers and damaged kerbs, in addition to just potholes.

"In 2013/14 the Vale paid out only £18,295.04 as a result of claims for damage caused by potholes."

He went on to talk about the council's record for repairing potholes, saying: "In 2013/14 the Vale filled in over 5,000 holes.

"Around 800 were what are officially classed as potholes (holes more than 90mm deep) and around 4,500 other holes were filled in as part of The Big Fill campaign.

"In the same year, the Vale Council spent approximately £550k repairing our roads.

"The council endeavours to fill all potholes reported within 28 days. We would urge residents to report any potholes that they are aware of. This can be done by calling 01446 700111 or via our website.

Vale MP Alun Cairns commented: "It goes without saying that the issue of potholes is very a common problem raised on the doorstep. People are weary of seeing yellow lines painted around what can be dangerous potholes just to protect the local authority.

"Some of the potholes are left untouched for up to a month and worsen rapidly – these timescales should be reviewed.

"The local authority has a more targeted operation maintaining our roads but with the weather turning, we could face the perfect storm of bad weather combined with more potholes forming – and a bigger compensation bill for the authority."

Miles Punter, Director of Visible Services at the Vale Council, explained: "Several bad winters have caused damage to Vale roads, as is the case across the country, and keeping up with the road surfacing and pothole problems is a great challenge for all councils.

"However, we know this is an important issue for our residents and so we are doing a huge amount of work to tackle the problem.

"As part of The Big Fill campaign, we now have our officers working on Saturdays and Sundays to fill holes and we have filled more than 5,000 in the last year alone."

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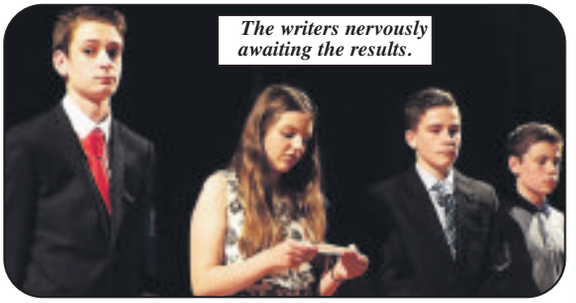
NEWS FROM PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE

The play's the thing – in fact, four of them!



The writers nervously awaiting the results.

The plays' directors with Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Smith.

'PAGE TO STAGE', is a new literacy project by Pencoed Comprehensive's drama and English departments, which is aimed at year-9 pupils and in particular, boys, with a view to inspiring new writing and stage production.

It all began with a motivational launch day during last summer's Learning Core programme featuring good luck speeches and recorded messages from celebrities from around the world.

These included well known Welsh playwright Frank Vickery, West End producer and director Nick Evans, as well as Hollywood superstar Michael Sheen.

"Write from the heart and take inspiration from those things around you" was the advice from Sheen.

Kay Smith, who is head of drama at Pencoed, was delighted to have support from such weighty figures in the film and stage industry for this new project that she hopes will inspire her pupils to put pen to paper.

Every year-9 pupil was encouraged to enter an original playscript for the festival and four were chosen to be performed in a grand presentation evening on the Friday evening before the October half term holiday.

In September, 6th form directors were assigned to each play and they have been responsible for organising the whole event, overseen by Kay Smith and her drama colleague Alex Hewitt.

Hours of preparation went into organising the brand new plays and everyone was very excited to see the finished performances on the night.

The four plays presented were: *Freelance*, *The Playwright*, *The Fear Game*, and *Forever by her Side*.

Following the performances, prizes were awarded to Jade Evans as Best Actress (*Forever By Her Side*), Brogan Parrish and Jonathan Carr as Writers of the Best Play (*Forever By Her Side*), and Olivia Bruford as Best Director (*Freelance*).

However, for the drama department at Pencoed, it is far more important that all the pupils felt a sense of pride and ownership of their play. The evening was well attended and the acting, scripts, direction and production elements were all very highly praised by the audience.

"Putting pen to a blank page can be daunting but if this event inspires just one child to go on and keep writing then it has been a success" said Kay.

"What has been very special for 'Page to Stage' is that some of the writers are boys who have never been involved in a school show and have really committed to the project." **CB**

Bridgend is the 'swim safe' county borough!

WITH nearly 100 per cent of primary schools in Bridgend county borough attending Halo's swimming pools for lessons (3,536 pupils had lessons in their pools last year) and nearly 7 out of 10 11-year-olds able to swim a length unaided as a result, Halo is "determined to work harder with teachers across the borough to ensure every child leaves primary school with this life saving skill".

A report this week saw the ASA (Amateur Swimming Association) calling for Ofsted to be more rigorous when it comes to assessing schools on swimming, saying that nationwide some 45 per cent of children between seven and 11 years can't swim a length unaided, and that over half the schools across the UK don't meet its recommended guidelines for a minimum of 25 hours a year of swimming tuition.

"Our swimming programme is one of our proudest achievements," says Andy Walker, Halo's Swimming Development Officer. "Halo has always recognised that our pools across the county are not just for fitness and leisure – they are an essential tool in teaching children to swim. That's why we offer free learn to swim crash courses during school holidays to children not in the lesson programme, and offer reduced price access to parents qualifying for concessions.

"Like the ASA, though, we know our biggest asset is our strong relationship with schools – 44 out of 46 primary schools in the county come to Halo for lessons."

"We use what's known as the school's intensive model,which we know has the best impact on improving pupils' swimming ability."

Former cleaner is on trial over country house theft

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

JEWELLERY and watches, many of the items of sentimental value and worth more than £50,000, were stolen from a Vale of Glamorgan country house, when the owner drove her two children to school.

One of those alleged to be responsible was a former cleaner who knew the house inside-out, knew the property was there, and took full advantage of her knowledge, said prosecutor David Thomas at Cardiff Crown Court.

Paula Miles, 34, who had worked at the house and Claire Gimblett, 39, both of Peacehaven, Tredegar, have pleaded not guilty to carrying out a burglary at Porthkerry House, Porthkerry.

Mr Thomas said the property was "a rather grand house" standing alone in acres of land in a beautiful setting, with a long driveway.

Living there with her two sons was Vanessa Barker.

On January 20, at 7.20am she drove them to school and didn't lock the French doors overlooking the sea. Later, she was told people had been seen inside the house when she was absent.

There was no "ransacking" but she later discovered jewellery and watches worth over £50,000 had been stolen. Among the items was a Cartier watch.

After police made enquiries, two men who had been repairing the drive said they saw two people in the house.

Later, two teenagers were arrested after one was wrongly identified as being involved.

Their mothers said they were at home at the time "ready to go to school".

"The police had drawn a blank" said Mr Thomas. But on Porthkerry Green was a CCTV camera belonging to a local farmer, Gwilym Davies.

It was checked and the police spotted a Renault car parked there with the defendants inside, which arrived three minutes after Mrs Barker left.

The defendants later drove off but two days later Mrs Barker found a bunch of keys in the house, one of which was for the Renault.

Miles and her partner Gimblett were arrested and said they had driven from Tredegar to Porthkerry for fresh air at about 7.15am.

One of the them said they fell into a puddle, a man gave them a hand and stole Gimblett's purse containing a car key.

They later broke into the car and found an alternative key and drove off.

The police discovered on Miles' mobile phone on the day of the burglary a call to a businessman in Bath asking if he wanted to buy a Cartier watch.

Mr Thomas said: "Miles was a former cleaner in the house, and knew it inside out.

"She had keys to the house and was a friend of Mrs Barker.

"She knew the jewellery was there, and took advantage of her knowledge.

"The set of keys later found in the house belonged to Miles," said Mr Thomas.

The case continues.

TAX HELP FOR ELDERLY...

PENCOED Library on Tuesday, December 2; at the Age Cymru office, Six Bells, on December 4 and Age Connect office, Holton Road, Barry, on the last Monday of the month.

For further details and to book an appointment, call 0845 6013321.

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SHOPKEEPER FINED FOR OUT OF DATE FOOD OFFENCES

A PENCOED shopkeeper has been fined, after admitting offering items of food for sale more than a week after their 'use by' dates had expired.

Following a consumer complaint about out of date food, Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards team visited the Min-y-Mart outlet at Min-y-Nant, Pencoed.

The visit uncovered food that was on sale five days out of date and the owner, Mr Arumugum Suresh, was advised of his responsibilities under food safety legislation.

However, despite this advice being reiterated in writing, a follow-up visit to the premises a matter of weeks later resulted in a chicken burger being found on sale nine days after its 'use-by' date had expired – as well as a pack of sausages which was on sale seven days past its 'use by' date.

The subsequent investigation by the council uncovered that Mr Suresh had no system in place for preventing food being sold after its use by date and he was charged with two offences under the Food Labelling Regulations 1996.

After admitting the offences before Bridgend Magistrates Court on Monday, October 27, the shopkeeper was fined a total of £700, together with a £70 victim surcharge and ordered to pay costs amounting to £800.

Commenting on the outcome of the court case, Bridgend County Borough Council's Leader, Coun Mel Nott said: "Perishable foods are marked with a 'use by' date to protect consumers from the risk of food poisoning. Trading Standards

"Officers will always seek to work with businesses to ensure compliance, but in this case, the advice given was ignored and this resulted in meat products being left on sale more than a week after their 'use-by' dates.

"I hope that the fine and costs imposed will reinforce the importance for retailers to check the stock rotation of their foodstuffs on a daily basis."

Anyone with concerns about retailers selling food past its 'use by' date should contact Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06 or by emailing tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk.

Porthcawl's Rotary posties on standby!

CHRISTMAS is coming – and so is the Rotary Club of Porthcawl's Christmas Post – but if you are writing your Christmas cards early, DON'T POST THEM YET!

From November 25 to December 15, our Rotary 'Posties' will collect, sort and deliver Christmas post with specially designed Rotary Christmas stamps.

You will be able to buy Rotary Christmas stamps from participating local outlets and post your cards in special Rotary Post boxes at the stores to addresses in the CF36 postal area – for only 25p!

The Rotarian Posties are ready, willing and able to get delivering in order to raise money for local and Rotary charities!

Please remember that cards can only be posted at the stores and can only be delivered to CF36 addresses.

The stamps can be bought and cards posted at the following stores: DH Edwards, Well Street; Walters Shoes, John Street; Jane's Forget Me Not, John Street; Stationery Hill, Station Hill; Cal's, Suffolk Place; Lifestyle Express, New Road; Nick's Stores, The Precinct; Parc Stores, Cilparc; Nottage Stores, Nottage; Spar Stores, Newton.

The club is very grateful for the goodwill of the stores, the continuing generosity of the public and also to the sponsorship offered by Walters Shoes and T Elwood Deere and Son.

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Choir set for festive concert

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir will again perform the opening ceremony of Holy Cross Church Christmas tree festival.

A gala concert will take place at Holy Cross on November 28 at 7.30pm. Tickets, £7.50, will be available from the Church Admin Office in Church Street, or Mr Frank Maynard on 01446 772454.

The concert will also feature soprano Ellen Williams, accompanied by Sian Davies. Proceeds will go to Holy Cross Church funds. All the trees have been donated privately, or by local schools, businesses and organisations within the Cowbridge area.

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NEW ON THE MARKET

LLANTWIT MAJOR £125,000

Modern two bedroom link house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Off road parking. Garden to front and rear. Ref 792D

NEW ON THE MARKET

LLANTWIT MAJOR £189,500

Modern well presented three bedroom semi-detached house and garage with full width Conservatory to the rear. Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining area, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Paved driveway and gardens. Ref 795D

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Remembrance Sunday in Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr attracts a record turnout

ABOVE: Cubs and Brownies took the collection at the Service in St Theodore's Church.

ORGANISERS of the Remembrance Day Service and parade in Kenfig Hill were "gratified" by the large crowd that attended.

Harold Phillips, who co-ordinated the event, said: "Two years ago, 150 people attended.

"Last year, it was 300, and this year, 500 people were gathered at the Cenotaph."

As in previous years, a service was held in St Theodore's Church, and the parade then made its way down the hill to the Cenotaph.

The service was conducted by Rev Jonathan Durley, with support from Rev Len Grabham and Reader Grace Wylde.

At the Cenotaph, The Last Post and Reveille were played on the bugle by Drummer Steffan Sheppard, of the Welsh Guards (a local boy from South Cornelly) in full dress uniform.

(See photo top left).

IMAGES BY KEITH E MORGAN

Remembrance ceremony at Kenfig Hill.

The sun shines at Cefn Cribwr.

THE new Cenotaph at Cefn Cribwr has the best view of any in south Wales.

On a clear day, you can see across the Bristol Channel, but when the weather is grim it is the most exposed – so Royal British Legion organisers of Remembrance Day mist ahve been delighted with the good weather.

Pastor Richard Roberts took the service at the Nebo Chapel, and the parade then made its way to the Cenotaph, where Pastor Roberts also took that service.

Children from Cefn Cribwr Primary School took turns to lay a wreath for each local Serviceman who had died in conflict.

LEFT and BELOW: Cefn Cribwr Primary School pupils lay their wreaths.

FAMILY'S CHARITY CLIMB
to say thank you for baby Hollie

Kirsty, Robert, Hollie and Gavin Jenkins present their donation to (from left) Miriam Williams, nursery nurse; Rachel Elwood, staff nurse; Julie Evans, ward sister; Angela Davies, ward clerk and Helen Radford, ward sister.

A BRIDGEND family was so grateful for the care their premature baby received, they climbed 886 metres to prove it.

Baby Hollie Jenkins arrived nine weeks early at the Princess of Wales Hospital, weighing just 2lb 15oz.

She was taken straight to the special care baby unit with breathing difficulties.

The following day, her lung collapsed and she was taken to the neonatal unit at Singleton Hospital for a week, before returning to Bridgend.

Here she spent five weeks growing bigger and stronger, until she was well enough to go home with her parents Kirsty and Robert – just in time for Christmas.

To say thank you for Hollie's care, Kirsty and Robert, along with Hollie's uncle Gavin Jenkins and grandfather Steven Ralph, climbed Pen-y-Fan in the Brecon Beacons – the highest peak in south Wales – raising £1,212 for the Princess of Wales unit.

Kirsty, from Bettws, said: "Everything happened really quickly when Hollie was born. I was on my way to work and I wasn't feeling very well.

"My blood pressure was really high so my doctor sent me straight to Princess of Wales' Ward 12, where I was admitted.

"Almost straight away I was moved to the delivery suite, as the situation was so severe, and the maternity team had to work quickly.

"It was October 31 last year and although Hollie wasn't due until January 1, I had to have an emergency Caesarean.

"Hollie is doing so well now. We've just had her first birthday and she is into everything. It's hard to believe what she went through when you see her now.

"We would like to thank everyone for their support, not just friends, family and sponsors, but the maternity team, transfer team of doctors and the neonatal teams at Singleton and Princess of Wales.

"They have such a warm, welcoming atmosphere we felt we had to raise funds to make sure they could continue to help other families in the way they helped us.

Helen Radford, special care baby unit sister, said: "It is wonderful to see baby Hollie doing so well and it was really lovely for the whole family to come and visit us.

"The money will be put towards bits and pieces for the unit to make it as warm and comforting as we can for our babies and families."

Brackla residents plant 1,000 bulbs in the Grow Wild Project

Residents with Keep Wales Tidy and Wales & West Housing representatives at the Grow Wild planting day inBrackla.

RESIDENTS in Brackla recently donned their gardening gloves and dug out their trowels to plant native flowers and help brighten their community.

The group, led by Brackla Events Committee, came together to plant wild bulbs and brighten up the public footpath between Clos–y–Waun and Heol Bryn Glas in The Meadows area.

The event came as part of Grow Wild, a £10.5m programme supported by the Big Lottery Fund and led by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, after Brackla Events Committee was awarded a £500 grant.

The Grow Wild programme inspires communities, friends, neighbours and individuals across the UK to come together to transform local spaces by sowing, growing and enjoying native wild flowers.

Over 30 members of the local community attended the planting day to lend a helping hand, with assistance from Wales & West Housing and Keep Wales Tidy. A number of budding young gardeners were among the group, with children as young as four digging in and getting their hands dirty.

In total, over 1,000 bulbs were planted, including native bluebells, snowdrops, wild daffodils, lily of the valley and wild garlic.

The group hopes that the wild flowers will make the footpath more welcoming and add a splash of colour for residents to enjoy, with the route regularly being used by people walking to and from the town centre or the local school.

Children from Brackla have been helping to improve their community by planting bulbs for Grow Wild with assistance from their mums, Keep Wales Tidy and Wales & West Housing.

Andrew Pritchard, Housing Officer for Wales & West Housing, said: "It was fantastic to see so many residents taking part in the Grow Wild Project in Brackla and the day proved to be a real success – with the emergence of some up and coming gardening stars!"

Maria Golightly, Grow Wild Wales Partnership Manager, commented: "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Brackla Events Committee on this project and I am delighted there was such a great turnout for the planting day. This project will not only brighten up the area, but will also add to our network of fantastic projects across Wales where people are transforming local spaces by sowing, growing and enjoying native wild flowers."

The Squirrel Shed in Tondu is the focus of international interest

THE Squirrel's Nest, from its home in a small industrial unit in Tondu, played host to visitors from around the world last month. The most recent international visitor to the first working 'Men's Shed' in Wales was an Australian executive director, Paul Villanti from the Movember Foundation, the men's health charity.

The Squirrel's Nest was established as a charity some years ago to provide a space where men could get together, work on practical projects and share stories. They found a new home two years ago in Tondu and joined in an international movement to give men an outlet for their creative talents and social networking.

The visit from the Movember Foundation and Prostate Cancer UK, showed their support for grass roots initiatives in the community. Earlier in October, The Squirrel's Nest welcomed David Helmers, CEO of Australian Men's Shed Association and John Evoy, CEO of Men's Sheds Ireland for a flying visit to look at their operations.

The Squirrel's Nest has particular emphasis on support for men's health and well-being and those whose lives have been affected by prostate cancer. Thanks to Prostate Cancer UK we open on Fridays particularly for men affected by prostate cancer.

By working with people, keeping occupied and giving back to the local community, participants can keep their mental and physical wellbeing in check. Why not come along and give it a go or support us by buying some of the beautiful crafted objects we make?

By joining in at the shed, you'll be able to meet new people and experience the camaraderie of working with other men. You will also have the chance to get involved in the local community and get one-to-one support from a Prostate Cancer UK clinical nurse specialist.

The Squirrel's Nest is generally open 10am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday at Unit 38 Tondu Enterprise Centre, Bryn Rd, Tondu. For more information email them at squirrelsnestms@gmail.com or call 01656 729625.

Bridgend Ramblers pay their tribute at Canadian memorial

ON Sunday, November 9, a group of 15 Bridgend Ramblers joined many other walkers in the Brecon Beacons for a simple ceremony of remembrance at the highest memorial in the country.

The site was 714m up on Carn Pica, some six kilometres west of Talybont on Usk, where Wellington Bomber R1465 crashed on a routine training flight on July 6, 1942.

The stone memorial cairn was erected by the pupils, staff and friends of Tredegar Comprehensive School in 1980 to remember the five Canadian volunteers who died that night. It has since been adopted by Canada as an official war memorial.

As 11am approached, more than 100 people gathered on the hillside to hear the sad details of the crash and stand in silent tribute as the ceremony at Westminster was broadcast on radio.

WI learns about Thanksgiving day

THE Newton WI November meeting commenced with the usual business before the guest speaker, an American lady called Polly, gave a very interesting talk on American Thanksgiving day, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November.

This event originates from the 'Pilgrim Fathers' first harvest in the New World in 1621.

December is a busy month in the Newton WI calendar, starting this year with the 'Tree Festivals' at All Saints Church from December 1 for one week – also at Margam Park Orangery on December 3 for one day only. At both these events, Newton WI trees are decorated by our talented craft ladies and a visit is highly recommended.

The December meeting will include our carol service officiated by the Rev Colin Richards – afterwards, tea/coffee and mince pies will be served.

Our Christmas lunch will be held on December 5 at the Coed y Mwstwr Hotel, which everyone is greatly looking forward to.

For more information, ring Pearl Mason on 01656 772657.

M Freeman

Local MP 'Gives an Hour' for Youth Work Week

Madeleine Moon pictured with youngsters at KPC Youth, as part of the National Youth Agency's 'Give an Hour' campaign.

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon has visited KPC Youth in Pyle, who are taking part in the National Youth Agency's 'Youth Work Week'.

The NYA 'Give an Hour' campaign encourages MPs to dedicate some of their time to supporting youth workers in projects within their constituencies and Madeleine said: "I was delighted to 'Give an Hour' of my time to support KPC Youth, who are a well known and established youth project in my constituency. I met with a group of youngsters and joined in with their discussion on risky behaviour at the centre last Friday.

"I had a great question and answer session with the youngsters and have agreed to go back in the New Year to help them carry out a parliamentary style of debate on an issue of their choice.

"I have visited KPC Youth many times over the years and it is inspiring to see the positive encouragement from the youth workers to the youngsters attending the centre from Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cornelly. Many of the youngsters learn life skills to help them get a good job and a good life.

"There is a range of indoor and outdoor activities available at the centre, such as a Rock School, learning to play an instrument, pool, table tennis, rugby, sports court and a skate park."

KPC Youth are continually looking for ways to raise funds for their centre, their ongoing Buy a Brick campaign, donations of toners, mobiles and old clothes.

Visit their website to find out how you can help: www.kpcyouth.com or email them: kpcyouth@hotmail.com

Sports under-15s climb a Mountain to victory!

LAST weekend, the Bridgend Sports under-15s faced the tough assignment of playing Mountain Ash away.

Mountain Ash have always had a reputation for being a very physical and strong side so the Sports had to work hard to run out winners in what was a very tense and close match from start to finish. The Sports had a squad of 19 for the fixture.

The Sports started the game as the brighter of the two teams as they had lots of possession deep inside the Mountain Ash half. The Sports came close to scoring on several occasions and it was inevitable that the Sports would take the lead.

The pivotal moment came when the Sports' scrum half Will Prosser made a diligent dash to the line to then offload it to second row Matthew Biggs, who dived over the line to score his fifth try of the season.

However, Mountain Ash reacted well and scored an equalising try thanks to their strong centre who forced himself through the Sports defence to score. Halftime came at an appropriate time for the Sports as they were able to regroup with scoreline five points apiece.

The second half was an even affair where both teams had chances to win the game. The Sports were unable to create much momentum in this half due to the stop-start nature of the game.

However, the Sports showed greater determination to win the game than their opponents and they were rewarded for their good work ethic by scoring a try which demonstrated good team work.

Flanker Rhys Kelly made a scoring return to action in what was his first appearance of the season when he was driven over the line by the Sports to score a crucial try.

The Sports defence was then put to the test as the hosts chased the game but the Sports withstood this pressure and closed out the game to run out as 10-5 winners.

Overall, the Sports should be commended for getting back to winning ways against a defiant Mountain Ash side.

It was clear to see that the Sports wanted the win more than their opponents and it was a good battle from start to finish - well done! **TP**

Under-9s hold off Caerleon

The Bridgend Sports under-9s line up against Caerleon on Sunday.

BRIDGEND Sports under-9s welcomed Caerleon to Newbridge Fields for a Remembrance Day fixture.

Both sets of young players observed a minute's silence impeccably at 11am to honour those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice,

With the game underway, both teams got off to a lively start, cancelling each other out by pressurising the team in possession into errors.

Caerleon broke the deadlock with the first try. It did not take long before the blue and whites hit back through excellent support play and inter-passing; with Tyron Davies, Mackenzie Dent, Cian John and Callum Lewis all involved, the ball was worked back to Cian John, who showed his pace to race down the wing to level the scores.

From the restart Sports secured turnover ball and ran at Caerleon with several players passing and supporting for the ball to be worked wide again. This time it was Jodi Keane who outsprinted the defence out wide to score.

Caerleon hit back again with a try which was followed by a period of play where they managed to retain possession and switch play across the field with their right wing constantly in the thick of things.

Sports changed a few players and Caerleon took advantage of the short disruption to take a 3-2 lead. The lead did not last long as the Sports secured a scrum deep in the Caerleon half.

From the scrum, Iestyn John supplied ball to Joel Rogers who outsprinted the defence to score. Both sides exchanged a further try each, with the home supporters thrilled for Morgan Edwards who scored his first try for the club after he set off on a wide run.

The first period ended all square at 4-4. For the Sports, Iestyn John, Tyron Davies and Dewi Worrall were to the fore in defence.

In the second period, the Sports outplayed the away team in attack and although the Sports players made a number of tackles through Alex Stimpson, Callum Lewis, Iestyn John, Tom Chick and Tyron Davies, some loose tackling allowed Caerleon to remain in the game for a period.

The home team persevered and their efforts paid off as they scored four unanswered tries, the first from Tyron Davies following a sustained attack with Callum Lewis, Alex Stimpson, Tom Chick, Dewi Worrall and Rhys Wilson all involved.

Mackenzie Dent scored the second with a typical burst through the defence. The final two tries of the half were scored by Joel Rogers, who showed the defence a clean pair of heels on both occasions. These scores enabled the home team to take an 8-4 lead into the final session.

The final period was a much closer affair, Caerleon took the lead after the Sports were penalised for a technical infringement.

The home side hit back with good running and handling, they scored their first try as Rhys Wilson and Tyron Davies combined; Tyron Davies then sent the defence the wrong way with a switch of direction to score.

Cian Jon was denied the next try after what looked like another try scoring run near the touchline. Caerleon restarted but were prevented from making any ground by Tom Chick, whose tackle drove them into touch.

Mackenzie Dent claimed the final score of the game after a Ben King burst upfield; he fed Jodie Keane and Cian John, who were both held up short of the line, but the ball found its way back to Mackenzie Dent for him to race over the line. **SP**

ARRESTING GAME OF RUGBY!

SOUTH Wales Police and Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV played an evening match on Friday, November 7 at Waterton Cross, in very difficult circumstances, with a high wind and driving cold rain throughout most of the game.

The pitch was, however, in excellent condition and both sides played as though they were playing in dry conditions, prepared to play 15 man attractive rugby to entertain the sparse crowd on such a foul night.

The Athletic pack had the upper hand particularly at set plays and scrummages where the front row of Matt Muir, Nathan Holman and Huw Morris gave their opponents a torrid time.

The Athletic took the lead after five minutes, setting up a drive from a five metre lineout which saw hooker Nathan Holman cross in the corner. This was the only score of the first half.

The Police had looked threatening with their lively backs but the weather had construed to frustrate them with a number of handling errors preventing promising moves coming to fruition.

They were finally rewarded just after half time when, from a scrum close to the Athletic line, their centre broke through the Athletic defence to cross under the posts for a converted try.

They held this 7-5 lead until the last 10 minutes. Athletic outside half Scott Jones, who had made a number of scintillating breaks, chipped through over the Police try line and man of the match scrum half Nick Jones dived on the ball to give the Athletic a 10-7 lead.

The result was still in doubt until two minutes from the end when lock Harry Griffiths ran in a fine try from 30 metres out and Scott Jones added the conversion for a hard earned 17-7 Athletic win.

Both sides should be congratulated on the standard of rugby served up in such adverse conditions. **AB**

Bridgend bridge club

WEDNESDAY, November 5 saw the first round of the club pairs championship and the winners, bridge writer Julian Pottage and Welsh international Tony Ratcliff, put on an explosive performance to score over 74 per cent, a rare feat in bridge.

Second placed Tony Disley and Roger Penton scored 57 per cent, with Christine and John Evans a close third on 55 per cent. It will need an exceptional performance from the chasing pack to catch Julian and Tony in the second round in two weeks time.

On Thursday, November 6, four tables contested the gentle afternoon duplicate session, the best improvers being Mike Williams, with an impressive 71 per cent, followed by Stuart Davies and Susan Hunt on 62 per cent.

On Friday the club hosted a round of the Children in Need simultaneous pairs competition, which, together with the sale of president Bill Turner's prints of Ogmore Bay, raised £125 for the charity. The club will be running another heat next Wednesday.

Winners on the night were Jenny Vaughan and Graham Jones on 67 per cent, followed by perennial bridesmaids Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner on 64 per cent, with Tony Disley and Roger Penton on 63 per cent.

Bridgend Bridge Club meets every Wednesday and Friday at 7pm in Nolton Church Hall in the middle of Bridgend for sessions of duplicate bridge.

For less experienced players, there is a session of gentle duplicate bridge, which includes some tuition, also in Nolton Church Hall at 2pm on a Thursday afternoon.

There is also a beginners' class, which started in September, and which runs in the mornings on a Thursday.

Anybody interested in finding out more about playing at Bridgend Bridge Club, or in learning more about bridge can phone Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, or John Evans on 01656 880372. ***SB***

Porthcawl bridge club

RECENT results at the club:

Saturday, October 25: First – Hazel & Colin Heard; Second – Dil & Marian Evans.

Monday, October 27: First – Trish Saunders & Marian Evans; Second – Emer Disley & Pat Haworth.

Thursday, October 30: First – Keith Davison & Rob Charlesworth; Second – Dil & Marian Evans.

Saturday, November 1: First – Mildred Trigg-Knight & Audrey Tinkler; Second – Peter & Sandie Jenkins.

Monday, November 3: First – Tony Haworth & Gary Williams; Second – John Cobby & Betty Longley.

Thursday, November 6: First – Peter & Sandie Jenkins; Second – Tony Haworth & Keith Davison.

Today (November 13) the club will be holding its annual event in aid of Children In Need - all are welcome.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm – 10.15pm; visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary Trish on 01656 785794. **TH**

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Public Notices

HYSBYSIAD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN ER MWYN NEWID MAP DIFFINIOL ADRAN 53 DEDDF BYWYD GWYLLT A CHEFN GWLAD 1981
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Y DATGANIAD A'R MAP DIFFINIOL AR GYFER HEN SIR DDE MORGANNWG AR DDYDDIAD PERTHNASOL 14 MEDI 1954.
GORCHYMYN NEWID MAP DIFFINIOL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2014 (Cyfeirif:DMO/53/416)

O'i gadarnhau, bydd y gorchymyn uchod, a wnaed ar 30 Medi 2014, yn newid y datganiad a'r map diffiniol ar gyfer yr ardal, drwy drefnu iddynt gynnwys y llwybr troed sy'n arwain o Lwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 72e, y tu cefn i 39 Porth-y-Castell yn Y Barri, i Romilly Park Road.

Cewch weld copïau o'r gorchymyn a map y gorchymyn yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeiriad isod, rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y Gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 29 Rhagfyr 2014, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law ynghylch y gorchymyn, neu unrhyw ran ohono, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd eisoes eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd hawl i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg gadarnhau'r gorchymyn, ac ni fydd yn rhaid ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru. Os caiff y Gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru, bydd unrhyw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau a dderbyniwyd o fewn yr amser penodedig nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 13 Tachwedd 2014

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

NOTICE OF MAKING DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER SECTION 53 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
THE DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE FORMER COUNTY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN RELEVANT DATE 14th SEPTEMBER 1954.
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2014 (No.DMO/53/416)

The above order made on 30th September 2014, if confirmed as made, will modify the definitive map and statement for the area by adding to them the footpath from Public Footpath 72e at the rear of 39 Porth-y-Castell, Barry to Romilly Park Road.

A copy of the order and the order map may be seen free of charge at the address below between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

Any representation or objection relating to the order must be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than 29th December 2014 and applicants are requested to state the grounds on which it is made.

If no representations or objections are duly made to the order, or to any part of it, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council, instead of submitting the order to the Welsh Ministers, may itself confirm the order. If the order is submitted to the Welsh Ministers, any representations or objections, which have been duly made and not withdrawn, will be sent with the order.

Dated 13th November 2014

Family Notices

HANKS
Derick

Suddenly on November 7, at home, Derick, formerly of Ty Canol Farm, Llantrithyd; beloved husband of the late Anne, dearly loved father of Mary, John and William, dear father-in-law of Lindsay, Jane and Sally, much loved by all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, November 20, service 1.30pm at Llantrithyd Church followed by service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Air Ambulance Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

EVANS
Paul John

On November 6, at his home in St Athan, Paul, beloved husband of Barbara, dearly loved father of Michael, Leigh and Christopher, loving son of John and Verna Evans of Rhoose, dear brother of Debra and Chris, brother-in-law of Tony and Sian.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral, Monday November 17, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

RICHARDS
Martin

Mavis, Michelle and family would like to thank everyone who attended Martin's funeral and also "his girls", especially Suzanne and Sian, for their kindness shown towards him at the end. Also thanks to District Nurses and Doctors of Eryl Surgery. Thank you all very much.

WAY
Vickey (née Cunningham)

Sadly on November 1 at Llandough Hospital, Vera Victoria Ann (Vickey), aged 69 years, passed away after battling with a debilitating illness for several years.

Dearly loved sister of Angela, Jonathan, Kim, Mandy and the late Tony and David; daughter of Mary Elizabeth Collins, originally of Tirphil, New Tredegar. Vickey will be sadly missed by all her nephews, nieces, family and friends.

Resting at A G Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, where flowers may be sent until the funeral service, on Friday November 21, in the chapel at 12.45pm. Afterwards interment at Cardiff & Vale Natural Burial Meadow, top of The Tumble, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff at 2pm.

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Birthdays

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Happy 50th Birthday
for November 16th
Eryl Jones
(Thomas)
'New Zealand'
50
Love, Mam & families xxx

PETTY OFFICER COPELAND RN
Stuart
Happy Birthday for November 16th
Love Nan, Mike, Paige, Stephanie, Martin & Leanne XXX

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01172/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use from UR Church to dwelling house
Location:/Lleoliad: Ebenezer, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llantwit Major

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01191/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Retention of change of use of existing outbuilding to an independent dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: 10, Beach Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01244/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New Dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to Plymouth House, West Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llantwit Major

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01147/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The rear annexe is to be converted into an apartment to accommodate the Hotel Manager. An additional floor will be inserted into the annexe building, accommodating sleeping area upstairs, with living, kitchen and dining spaces below. There will be no change to the main hotel building.
Location:/Lleoliad: Glendale Hotel, 10, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01154/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: 2 No. new roller shutters to be installed within the branch to create an internal out of hours ATM lobby
Location:/Lleoliad: Lloyds TSB Bank, 1, Windsor Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01187/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The addition of a new French window door set in unit 4B of the Church to create a new opening
Location:/Lleoliad: Porthkerry Road Methodist Church, Porthkerry Road, Barry
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01272/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: 1. To remove the apex only of the vestibule roof to allow the proposed flat green roof to be extended over the vestibule to avoid large bulkheads and internal gutters and to meet the existing Castle walls; 2. To extend the proposed corridor over the existing porch as the existing roof of the porch is not waterproof
Location:/Lleoliad: Hensol Castle, Hensol Castle Park, Hensol
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade I

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01244/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New Dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to Plymouth House, West Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Plymouth House, Grade II

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 13th November, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Sully Sports some new kit!

Sully Sports youth sporting their new kit.

SULLY Sports youth football team are pictured above sporting their new kit which was generously donated by two local businessmen, Tim White and Myles Case.

The newly-formed side, who play their football in the South Wales youth football league, have started the season by winning all seven league games in the South Division, playing some attractive football.

The side is managed by Dave Knight and Rob Jones and all players involved are in their first year of youth football, so the winning start to the season has come as a shock to both players and management.

Tim White, the director of Uplands Car Radios, and Myles Case of New Street Motors both wanted to put something back into grassroots football, and were only to happy to purchase the new football kit on behalf of the team.

The club would like to thank both businesses for their generosity. **RJ**

AmmoKnights are on fire!

THE Llantwit Major AmmoKnights embarked on a Sunday afternoon trip to the Aber Valley where they were hosted by Senghenydd Saints.

Yet again physically outsized the diminutive AmmoKnights had to use all their guile and courage to overcome their hosts in a titanic battle for rugby supremacy.

The first 20 minutes saw both teams fighting for territorial advantage with the scoreboard untroubled thanks mainly to some heroic last ditch tackling from Joel Carbis and Leighton Pawsey.

With both sets of fans growing anxious a swift break out of the AmmoKnights half by fly half Ben Reilly turned the defence and quick ball released the rapid backline, who found the tiniest of gaps out wide to release wing Zak Williams to score the first of his three tries.

The familiar sight of an Ethan White conversion followed and the guests were 7-0 to the good. Senghenydd raised the tempo and as they pushed hard to break the Llantwit defence the ball spilled to speedster Williams, who scooped up the loose ball in his own 22 and outpaced the covering defence to score under the posts.

Ethan White's conversion was the last score of a half that had produced few clear opportunities.

The second half saw the hosts tuck the ball up the proverbial jumper and play a closer, forwards-orientated game. It wasn't long before the constant pressure told and Senghenydd crossed the line for their first score.

That score filled the home team with gusto and they proceeded to dominate possession and score two further tries through sheer brawn and determination that left the AmmoKnight fans wondering if the physical battle had taken its toll on the travelling players.

With the Saints now 21-14 ahead the AmmoKnights finally managed to keep the ball for several phases and were awarded a penalty in the opposition 22.

Captain Dan Leyshon made the brave call to kick the points with White, duly obliging to take the score to 17-21.

From a midfield scrum Ollie Wong picked up from the base and ate up the space in front of him before releasing Ethan White who darted up the touchline dazzling three defenders to score under the posts. Converting his own try, the away fans thought it was game over as the clock nudged the 25 minute mark.

At 24-21 the AmmoKnights showed no sign of shutting up shop and saved their best try for last. A swift break on the right hand side saw Morgan Greenaway release Leighton Pawsey, who was dragged down yards from the line.

Pawsey popped the ball to the supporting Zak Williams who scored his hat-trick try and extend the lead to 29-21.

The home referee then played an additional 10 minutes until the game finally ended when Senghenydd scored their fourth try to take the score to 29-28.

As the final whistle sounded both sets of fans and coaches applauded the vigour and effort displayed by all the players. An outstanding effort by the AmmoKnights, who once again showed that size doesn't matter.

A week off rugby for the team this week as charity fundraising takes centre stage, before the AmmoKnights welcome local rivals Barry to the Recreation Ground on November 23.

The team have set themselves a huge target of trying to raise £10,000 with 80 per cent of funds raised being donated to Bobath Wales and 20 per cent helping fund their Holland tour.

However, if the boys surpass their target then 100 per cent of all funds raised in excess of £10,000 will go to Bobath Wales. The players decided to do this in order to raise money for children that may never get the opportunity to take part in such tours themselves, and help show that there is more to rugby than just their Sunday morning endeavours.

The team are challenging themselves by taking part in three endurance events over the coming months, the first of these being the Revolution Runs 'Burn' Event on Sunday, November 16 in Cowbridge. This event is a 7km outdoor obstacle course and all the players will be tested both physically and mentally as they look to complete the course as a team.

The AmmoKnights will follow this with a further two events consisting of a gruelling 384 mile cycle and finish with a 22 mile rowing event. The combined distance that the 20 players will accumulate is 493 miles!

That distance is equivalent to that which separates their home rugby club in Llantwit Major from their tour destination in Wassenaar, Holland.

The players have been busy producing a fundraising video to promote their efforts and if you feel you can help their cause then please take the time to watch their video and sponsor our young men raising money for their tour but, more importantly, Bobath Wales.

Even a contribution of £1 can help these boys get closer to their £10,000 target. You can sponsor them by visiting their just giving page: http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/AmmoKnights

MR

THE COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SPORTS REPORT

OUR year 8 hockey team played against Howells on Thursday November 6 on a cold and wet evening at Leckwith.

Howells were the stronger team with excellent stick skills and scored their first goal early on. We defended really well with Alice Voisey-Smith, Sarah Wynne and Poppy Jenkins showing very good tackles and clearing shots up to our midfield.

Beth Edwards (player of the match) worked hard in midfield distributing up to our forwards. Eve Mordecai showed very good stick work playing on the left attack. Although we had a few shots at goal we were unable to score. The final score saw Howells win 3-0.

Player of the match: Beth Edwards.

NETBALL

Year 7 girls are showing great commitment to netball this year, resulting in Cowbridge having three teams to compete against Stanwell Comprehensive; Year 7 A, B and C teams playing on October 23.

The A team were up first and played very well. The two teams were very evenly matched with both teams defending and attacking well.

The first half finished and Cowbridge were in front by just one point. The second half was just as close but Stanwell took the lead, finishing the game 10-8.

A team players: Alexa B, Alice R, Ellie W, Amelie C, Emma J, Tiliy G, Lowenna R, Seren R.

Cowbridge B and C team played two quarters each in the second game.

Similar to the A's game both Cowbridge and Stanwell were evenly matched. Cowbridge defended well, however Stanwell's goal shooter was very strong and took every change she had.

The C team played the last two quarters and played to the same standard. The final score 6-3 to Stanwell.

B team players: Mia W, Catrin R, Hannah D, Izobel A, Josie D, Livvy C, Lily G.

C team players: Emily H, Jess B, Hana M, Mali C.

FOOTBALL

Cowbridge travelled to Barry for this first round Seagar Shield tie against St Richard Gwyn with just the bare 11 players.

Coach Mr. Lewis impressed upon the boys the need for discipline and organisation. With no substitutes available and it also being a warm and muggy afternoon it was essential Cowbridge played with both determination and intelligence.

The home side started brightly and fired off two early shots, testing keeper Ellis C-L; the shot stopper showed his skill and Cowbridge grew in confidence and began to attack down both flanks.

Lathan Garrett, stepping up from year 9, Liam Murphy and Rhys Bradshaw all made dangerous incursions in to the opposition box. Ieuan Llewellyn was also now covering every blade of grass and proving something of an aerial nuisance.

Laurence Bowman and Shaun Carpenter were starting to impose themselves physically on the game and Cowbridge looked odds on to score first.

Unfortunately a defensive mishap as a result of a long St. Richard Gwyn through ball bypassed the back four and although keeper Ellis made a valiant attempt at a six yard block, the striker rounded him and finished from a sharp angle.

Undeterred, Cowbridge fought back and after a series of corners, Lathan Garrett finished to make the score 1-1.

Buoyed by their positive response Cowbridge pushed on and pinched a second through Rhys Bradshaw. The halftime score was 2-1 to Cowbridge.

Into the second half and the back four of Dan Williams, Peter Teague, Jack Richards and Ollie T-W really proved their worth, digging in with a number of last ditch tackles as St. Richard Gwyn pressed for the leveller.

With the midfield providing excellent defensive assistance Cowbridge were proving stubborn at the back and keen to protect their one goal advantage.

Relieving the pressure Liam Murphy and Rhys Bradshaw carved out a number of further opportunities but still the score remained 2-1.

The final few minutes saw St. Richard Gwyn go down to 10 men, with a straight red for a blatant pull on a jersey and some full-blooded challenges!

Cowbridge stood firm and finished the stronger of the two sides. The boys displayed commendable team spirit and fitness and thoroughly deserved their victory.

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LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC FACE OFF AGAINST GLAMORGAN COUNTY

The captains of Llantwit Major RFC and Glamorgan County RFC pay tribute.

On Remembrance Sunday, Llantwit Major RFC were lucky enough to host a select side from Glamorgan County RFC.

It is prestigious to have such a fixture and it was an apt way to further commemorate the club's 125th year.

Before the game started the squads lined up on the 22 yard line while both captains laid a wreath beneath the posts to commemorate those service personnel who had given their lives in conflict.

With a poignant rendition of the Last Post and a minute's silence, all who were there had their own time to reflect on the sacrifices made over the years.

Once the game started, you could have been forgiven for thinking that this may have been a league encounter, as both sides went at it hammer and tongs from the outset.

Given the inclement weather that had been around in the run up to the game it was not going to be a dampener on this game as both sides endeavoured to play in the Barbarian-style; in fact Glamorgan County not once kicked to touch when they had a penalty and ran absolutely everything. The day of running rugby was ably assisted by referee Colin Kirkhouse who let the game flow.

With the crowd feeling the hits it was Llantwit who struck first. Following some great work and handling skills they found themselves down in the County's half and through some hard work crossed the line with Jamie Lewis diving over for the try that was converted by Ryan Evans.

It didn't take long for the visitors to hit back and with some dancing feet fly half Smithson crossed for a try that was converted by Gareth Powell.

Llantwit Major RFC squad

The game continued at pace with breaks being made all over the field and some great interpassing keeping the crowd entertained. Jamie Lewis claimed Llantwit's second try with a drive over the line from close range which again was converted by Ryan Evans.

Glamorgan County then scored another three tries, the first by lock Stephen Bevan who after good ground work found himself in acres of space to saunter over the line in the corner. The try went unconverted.

Then, with Llantwit deep in the County's half, they lost the ball and it went through a number of hands before finding former Llantwit player Josh Austin who raced clear from around the 50 metre mark to score against his old club; again this try was unconverted.

It wasn't long before Josh Austin claimed his second try which was converted to make the score at halftime Llantwit Major 14 Glamorgan County 24.

To give all squad members a game on this special day the coaching staff of Llantwit Major made wholesale changes at halftime and the pace didn't let up.

The Glamorgan County team also made the changes and this saw their pack take ascendancy with a much bigger front row that Llantwit found difficult to handle, and on several occasions, no matter what they did, they had no answer and lost the ball.

This allowed Glamorgan County time and space to move the ball at will and if it wasn't for stout tackling and defence from Llantwit Major they would have leaked far more tries.

Paul Smithson, the replacement outside half, was next on the scoresheet with a try that he converted himself. There was some respite for Llantwit when livewire winger Rhys Balmont found his space and his gas for a try that was converted, this time by Chris Fowler.

Luke Laws was next on the scoresheet with a try that was converted by Jamie Moore. With the decision made on the field to go for passive scrums due to the dominance of the visiting pack, Llantwit were able to have a platform from which to work although it was too late to make a real difference.

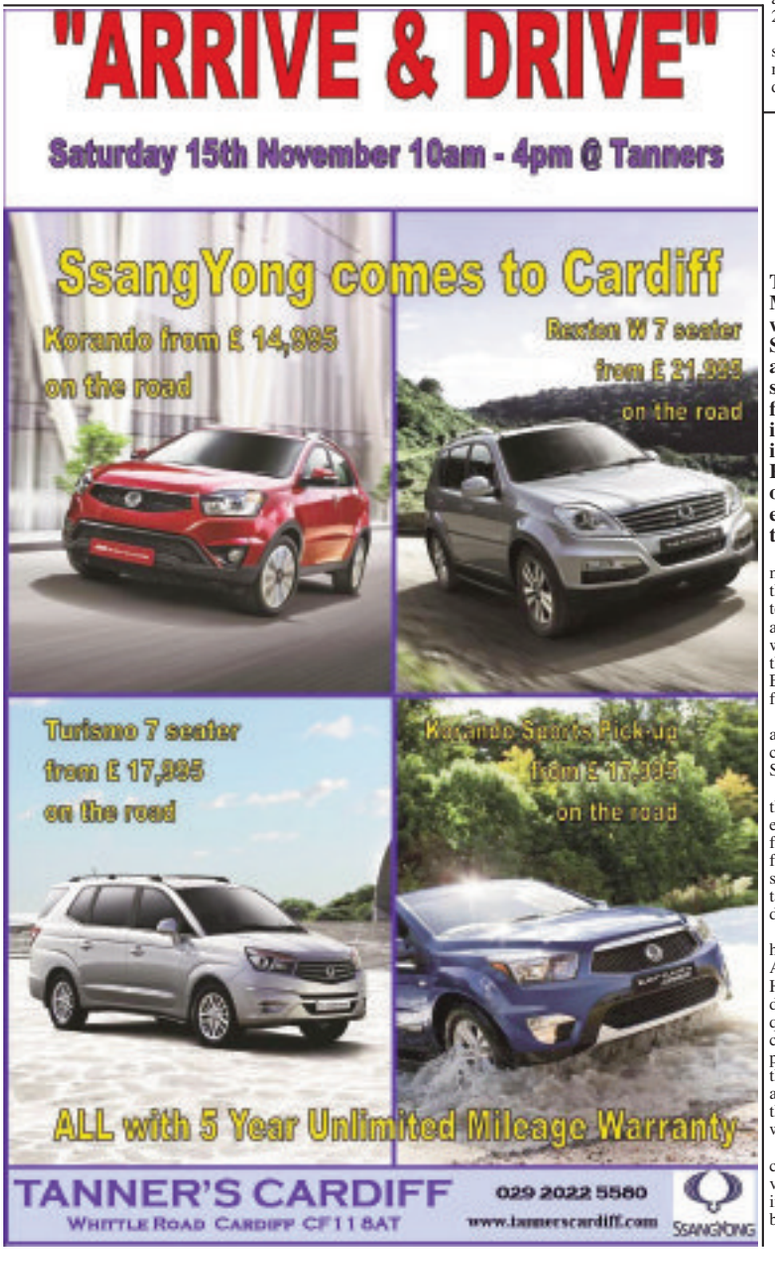
It was Owen Richards who claimed the visiting side's last try, converted by Jamie Moore. Try as they might Llantwit could not break the stranglehold defence and claim any more points and with no injury time to play the referee brought an end to what was an extremely entertaining game that must have been good for the neutral to watch.

With a month's enforced break from rugby it was good to get the blood pumping and air through the lungs of the players.

Following the game each player who took the field was presented with a polo shirt to commemorate the game that was generously sponsored by Blockley's Barbers of Llantwit Major.

The next game for Llantwit Major will now be on Saturday, December 6, when Old Illtydians will be the visitors. You can keep up with all events at the club on their website or Facebook page; the first event will be a Christmas party for children under 7 years old on Sunday, December 7.

NE



The Seaview lads are keeping busy

THE Bert Peterson Memorial Trophy was fished for on Sunday, October 26 and a good turnout saw some excellent fish being landed including an impressive Blonde Ray for Paul Crook of 17lb, an excellent fish from the shore.

It was good to see so many members make the effort and we hope to see more old faces again in the coming weeks, especially with the Wyndham Page and Eddie Frost trophies up for grabs.

For details of these and other forthcoming competitions see the Seaview lads website.

Paul also did well in the recent Seamaster event with a 10th place finish against some fierce competition, showing that he not only talks a good match but delivers!

In the same match we had another two anglers, Aida Harris and Roy Harding, in the top 20, demonstrating the quality of anglers in the club while our chair and president demonstrated their lack of spacial awareness by attending the weigh-in at the wrong bar!

The fishing has continued in a positive vein with some impressive weights being recorded.

On boat and shore there have been some excellent blonde rays landed including some pushing toward the high teens.

In addition to big ray and eels being landed the ubiquitous cod have started to show with ICA landing an impressive 8lb 13oz specimen and more showing up along the shoreline.

The boat fishing has been excellent with Crossbow the skipper finding plenty of fish on the Benjoma 2.

On October 18, anglers landed over 300lb of fish including 13 blondes to 19lb and a stunning cod of 16lb 4oz for Dan Roderick, while his father took the honours with over 73lb of fish. ICA landed over 60lb for an impressive second place, showing his versatility as an angler.

We await reports from the annual trip to the Canaries with baited breath, and rumour has it that some anglers have actually packed their rods this year!

RESULTS

Bert Peterson Trophy: 1st P Crook 18lb 14oz; 2nd R Lougher 18lb; 3rd 1 Ladner 11lb 13oz; 4th C Mckinery 10lb.

November 2: 1st P Seaton 11lb 15oz; 2nd A Harris 11lb 7oz; 3rd S Doble 9lb 8oz; 4th R Whitcombe 6lb 4oz; 5th D Whitcombe 2lb 2oz; 6th R Green 1lb 6oz.

JC

The Barry darts league round-up

THIS week's fixtures saw the two remaining undefeated teams in the league keep their unbeaten records.

The Dockers had an impressive 13-8 home victory against top of the league the Billy Ghosts.

The BFC Allsorts faced an away trip to the other Billy side, The Wanderers; the BFC Allsorts also recorded a 13-8 win.

The Mariners remain in second position with a big 19-2 win against the Hell Raisers, but the biggest win of the week went to the Poachers, beating the Caddy Cons Loungers 21-0, with Ray Way hitting a 180 in the process.

The Cwm Talwg had a comfortable 17-4 win over the Tynewydd Inn, and the Plastics made it three wins in a row with a 12-9 win over the Raiders.

The closest game of the week took place at the Runway Club in Rhoose. The Runways came away with a narrow 11-10 victory over the Park Weasels.

RL

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, news and other items of interest - keep everyone updated with how your team is faring this season and email us at:

gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'The day I met Sir Gordon Richards'

THERE may still be some GEM readers who can recall the Cardiff Continental Waxworks situated a few doors down from the Royal Hotel in Cardiff.

Well, when it closed in 1946 most of the wax effigies ended up at Coney Beach, Porthcawl, but whether the wax model of the legendary flat racing jockey Gordon Richards or the one of the well-known racing tipster Prince Monolulu were among them, I cannot say.

When I was a little boy, I regularly visited the Cardiff Continental Waxworks and although I was only ten years old when it closed it has made a lasting impression on me. I would often gaze up at the effigy of the famous horseman which was apparently dressed in the actual racing silks he had worn when winning the 1930 St Leger on Lord Glanely's *Singapore*.

Little did I think then that one day, in my role as a racing correspondent, I would get to meet the great man in the flesh, so to speak. He was Sir Gordon then and it was at a press luncheon in his honour at Chepstow Racecourse, not long before he died and where he had in 1933 established a world record when riding 12 consecutive winners.

I managed to have quite a long chat with him and although he had set his record-breaking 12 successive winners at the Welsh racecourse (well, at least 11 of them), he revealed to me that his favourite racecourse had been Newmarket.

As he was born the son of a Shropshire miner, I tried to convince him that he was Welsh. And although he admitted that Richards was a Welsh name he didn't quite agree to being a Welshman!

A smart, dapper man, he kindly signed my menu card but my one regret is that I didn't ask him whether those racing colours that had been on his wax effigy were in fact genuine.

And, as for the famous racing tipster, 'I Gotta Horse' Prince Monolulu, who used to wear a headband of ostrich feathers, I got to meet him too!

For the record, Gordon's first ride at Chepstow was in the St Andrew's Plate which he won on Fred Darling's *Manner* by a comfortable three lengths. In the next race, the Clearwell Selling Plate, he rode his second winner *Brush Past,* which drew away in the closing stages to score by four lengths.

Next race on the card was the Bulwark Selling Plate and a filly named *Miss B* gave him his third success of the afternoon. Just over half an hour or so later, Gordon was again in the winner's enclosure after winning the Severn Stakes Sweepstake on *Arona*.

His delighted followers could hardly wait for the runnners to line up for the Glanely Handicap, which he won on *Red Horizon*. The final race of the afternoon was the Castleford Handicap and the crowd went mad when the champion jockey, on Lord Woolavington's *Delicia,* stormed home into the lead to win by a length.

Hats and racecards were thrown into the air and the cheering went on for some time. Racegoers rushed from the members' enclosure and Tattersalls' enclosure to congratulate Gordon, who had never on one occasion used his whip.

More people than usual turned up at Chepstow on the second day of the two-day meeting to see the great jockey in action. There was a desperate finish to the opener, the Llangibby Maiden Plate, in which Gordon got *The Covenanter* home by a head. He took the next race too on *Kirtimuir*, before winning the Golden Hill Selling Plate on *June Rose*.

The Welsh St Leger was next on the card and once again Gordon won cleverly on *Montrose*.

In the next race, the Hughes Morgan Handicap, Gordon saw to it that the filly he was riding lived up to her name scoring by two lengths. Despite carrying top weight in the last race, Gordon's mount *Eagle Ray* was made an odds-on favourite.

Everyone it seemed at Chepstow was willing Gordon to go through the card again; and the atmosphere was electric as the runners went down to the start.

However, sadly it was not to be and in a tight finish *Eagle Ray* finished third, beaten a head and a neck, after conceding 29lbs to the winner. But by riding the winner of his last race at Nottingham the day before, his total of successful winning rides came to a then record-breaking dozen.

BRIAN LEE

TENNIS CLUB PLAYS THEIR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

BARRY Athletic Tennis Club is proud of its mission to provide an accessible and inclusive sports facility for the community of Barry, and as part of its commitment to achieving this mission, has established links with a number of local businesses and organisations.

One such business is local personal training company FitM8; in the summer, FitM8 sponsored the junior presentation evening, and continues to sponsor the junior player of the month.

FitM8 and Barry Tennis Club are now offering a joint family session, where the tennis club's coach will offer junior coaching while FitM8 trains the parents, all in the indoor setting of Barry YMCA on Wednesdays at 5pm.

Club coach, Penny Mickelsen said: "Barry is a large town but retains a strong sense of community, and it is important to develop and maintain links between local clubs, businesses and groups, through even the smallest of gestures in order to sustain that community spirit."

TOTS TENNIS

If you're looking for a new way to entertain your toddler, look no further than Tots Tennis at Barry Tennis Club every Friday at 10.30am.

A mixture of agility, balance and co-ordination skills, blended with counting, colours and nursery rhymes, these sessions are a perfect way to instil healthy habits in your child from a young age in a fun environment with like-minded families.

With a cuppa and a chat for the parents after the main activities are over, these sessions offer something for parent and child alike (and you may even benefit from your little one drifting off for a midday nap more readily than usual afterwards).

Just call into the club (behind Fun Harbour on Paget Road, Barry Island), this Friday from 10.30am, and give it a go (there is no minimum age, but children are expected to be able to walk confidently without assistance).

For further information about the club, follow Barry Tennis Club on Facebook and Twitter or email info@barrytennis.co.uk.

PM

Wales aim to build on their strong start

"WE are top of the league" So went the chant as Wales battled their way to victory over Cyprus last month, a win that sees them sit atop their qualifying group.

Yet the test of Belgium on Sunday will be the sternest examination yet of Chris Coleman's team's chances of ending their tournament hoodoo.

With the likes of Vincent Kompany (injury notwithstanding), Eden Hazard, Romelu Lukaku and Thibaut Courtois expected to line up against the Welsh, many will be hoping for a repeat of last year's surprise 1-1 draw in Brussels, which saw a depleted Welsh side more than match their illustrious hosts, and deservedly level late on through Aaron Ramsey (one of several players returning to the squad).

With a (hopefully) full-strength squad to choose from, Sunday's game is this talented Welsh team's opportunity to lay a real marker down for the remainder of the campaign.

GARETH JAMIESON

Cowbridge RFC news

COWBRIDGE RFC would like to thank the people who attended in numbers at this year's fireworks display at the club.

We were very lucky with the weather and there was a great display. We do hope that everyone enjoyed it and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future go to Luke and Callie Adams who were married last Saturday. A good day was had by all.

This Friday we have the birthday celebrations for past player, coach, committee man, treasurer and President Tom Mainwaring, 7pm for 7.30pm at the club.

All players are invited with Tom's friends for what should be a great night.

Training continues through the month as the team prepare for the vital match away at Canton on December 6.

RV/RK

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MEET THE FAMILY TEAM...

David Davies - Managing Director
After leaving school, David immediately pursued his childhood passion of cars and got his first job in the motor trade in the late 70's. After building up experience and further knowledge while working in the motor trade for a number of years, he set up his own car sales business in 1986. David quickly built up a reputation for customer service and quality in the local area and has built strong relationships with repeat customers nationwide. He has been working for himself ever since.

Elliot Davies - Sales Manager
Elliot was born into the motor trade and from day one has been attending vehicle shows, motor sport events and many dealerships with his father. After building up a number of qualifications while in education, the natural path for Elliot was to get involved into the family business and further pursue his passion. He thoroughly enjoys his work and strives to continue the strong reputation that his father has built over the last quarter of a century.

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Inaugural Kyokushin tournament held in Barry

ON Saturday, November 1, Barry Kyokushin Karate Club held, and competed in, the first IKKU Welsh Open at Barry Memorial Hall, an event organised by chief instructor, Senpai Phill Sedgmond, and his committee at Barry Kyokushin Karate Club.

This tournament was the biggest Kyokushin Open held in Wales for over a decade, with hundreds of competitors and watchers from all over the UK. The purpose of this tournament was to build bridges with other Kyokushin clubs in Wales, and with other organisations - and it was a fantastic success.

The day began with the Kata competition, and Barry Kyokuhshin Juniors stormed the first category, taking home all three top spots. Lucy Chick took home third, Justine Bolanos took second, and her older brother Ben Bolanos took home first place.

All three competitors performed their Kata to a very high standard and beat another five juniors to their positions - three well deserved positions for these three juniors.

In senior Kata Rhian Evans represented the club, and came up against higher, more seasoned competitors and fellow organisation competitors.

Rhian's first Kata (Pinan Ni) secured her a place in the final with 1.0 above her competitors. Although Rhian's much higher graded and seasoned competitor performed the same chosen Kata that Rhian had practised, she pushed on and secured herself a well deserved first place, adding a Welsh title to join her English and British titles.

Cadet Semi-Contact was next on with Sebatian Barczewski and Andrei Espiritu taking part in CS1 6-7 year old division. Both the boys stormed their previous fights, neither losing a single one to competitors from all over the country, to secure a place in the final.

Although it's difficult to fight your own teammates, these two fought a very hard, very close fight, but it was Andrei who took home first place for Barry Kyokushin, leaving Sebastian with second place.

Justine Bolanos was next to win herself a title in CS2 8-9 year olds. Justine came up against nine much larger boys, and although slightly intimidated, she fought incredibly hard, losing just one fight to enable her to fight for third place against another Barry competitor, Sam Allen. Both fought very hard but it was Justine's determination to see her dominate the fight and win herself a third place.

Men's Senior Clicker saw Paul Lambert representing Barry Kyokushin, competing for the very first time. Paul trained very hard for this competition and went in with a few nerves, competing against much younger fighters.

Paul's first fight was against one of the younger opponents, but Paul took to the mat and countered every attack, keeping a solid defence.

After a unanimous win, Paul sailed to the final. Paul, still fatigued, came up against a fellow competitor of the same age, but continued to move and counter every attack and dominated his opponent to take home a much-deserved first place.

Last for the day was Female Clicker, with Rhian Evans representing the club again, competing in clicker for the very first time. Rhian dominated the first round with head kicks and quick counter attacking and went through to the final by unanimous decision.

In the final Rhian came up against a competitor with a wealth of fighting experience, who was much taller. Although intimidated Rhian fought hard and strong, throwing in head kicks, but was unfortunate to miss out on first place by a majority decision, taking home an impressive second place.

Senpai Phill, chief instructor at Barry Kyokushin, commented: "Its been over a decade since students in Wales had an event they could attend in their own country; until now, many of us would travel all over the UK attending what we could.

"This annual event is the start of something new and special for this sport and its completely open, any Kyokushin organisation can enter. This event was also a significant milestone for me as it was my 25th year training in Kyokushin karate and, with the help of my committee at Barry Kyokushin Karate club, I've managed to put this tournament on to give something back to a sport that given me so much over the years. Seeing everyone leave with smiles on their faces was such a rewarding experience."

Barry Kyokushin train on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6.30pm to 7.30pm for under-16s and 7.30pm to 9pm for 16 and over at Castleland Community Centre.

Anyone interested in joining this karate club should contact us on 01446 408974 or barrykarate@hotmail.co.uk. Further information can be found on our Facebook page or website www.bkkc.co.uk.

RE

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COWBRIDGE JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Cowbridge under-11s travelled to the capital for a Remembrance Day game against Llandaff, where a minute's silence was observed before the start of play.

Sadly, not for the first time this season Cowbridge started the match slowly enabling Llandaff to bring their free flowing running game to the fore.

Cowbridge were unable to get their hands on the ball for long periods and when they did were unable to hold onto it for very long without turning it over.

Cowbridge were also slow in pushing up in their defensive line which allowed the home side to score four unanswered tries in the opening 20 minute session of play. T

o their credit Llandaff took advantage of the space offered to them and played some lovely handling rugby in this session of play.

In contrast the second session saw Cowbridge switch on and play some great rugby. Far more aggression was shown and Llandaff were closed down far more efficiently forcing more errors out of the home side's back division.

In particular there were great energy and tackle counts shown by Ifor Rees, Rhydian Williams, Akka Guwy and Robbie Brown.

Cowbridge's first try came from Robbie Brown who had been switched to centre for the second period and showed all his strength in crossing for the visitors' opening score.

Fly half Steffan Evans produced a lovely jinking run to add a second try shortly afterwards.

Following good work by hooker Ethan Francis taking a strike against the head scrum half Rhys Pritchard got the ball into midfield for centre Robbie Brown to barge over for his second try.

It was then the turn of speedy winger Finlay Sullivan to race down the touchline to run in a fine try from distance to bring the scores level.

To cap an outstanding period of play just before the end of the session Steffan Evans collected his second try to give Cowbridge a 5-4 lead going into the final period of play.

Despite plenty of effort from the visitors the last session belonged to the home side as they scored three tries without Cowbridge responding.

Again, some lovely handing resulted in some very good tries but Cowbridge worked hard and one offensive tackle from Ollie Jones which drove the Llandaff player back yards typified the effort.

In the end Cowbridge paid for their slow start and were edged out 7 tries to 5.

***Squad**: Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Will Harris, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Rhydian Williams, Finlay Sullivan, Oliver Jones, , Archie Lloyd, Finlay Brace, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees, Robbie Brown, Lewys Robins, Akka Guwy, Finlay Ball, Steffan Evans, Rhys Pritchard & Sebastian Johns-Powell.*

MF

Cowbridge under-9s returned to the Lexus tournament in Bristol, looking to continue the excellent form they have shown this season.

The opening fixture for Cowbridge was Old Bristolians, which turned out to be a very one sided affair as soon as George Tuckley had burst through the middle to open the Cowbridge tournament account.

Osian Bruce sprinted in at the left corner and then turned provider setting up George for his second try. A dazzling piece of footwork from Joe Arentsen increased the Cowbridge lead with Sam Jackson then charging through and offloading to Henry Whitehouse who powered his way over.

James Lord raced up the right wing outpacing the defence to score in the corner and Henry completed the rout with a close range finish. Final score 7-0 to Cowbridge.

Game two against Tewkesbury followed a similar pattern; Ioan Phillips twice made good ground in the centre offloading to Harry New on both occasions, who produced exemplary finishes.

James Lord showed determination to score at the end of the first half and Henry Whitehouse scored straight from the kick off in the second half to end any hope for Tewkesbury.

Sam Jackson scored a deserved try and James Collingridge sprinted around the Tewkesbury defence diving into the left hand corner.

Sam Sheppard closed out proceedings with a clever dart through the bewildered defence. Final score 7-0 to Cowbridge.

The last game in the pool saw Cowbridge take on a strong Plymstock team. Although Cowbridge shaded it in terms of territory the game ended as a no score draw. So with 14 tries scored and no tries conceded Cowbridge topped the group and went on to play Exeter in the semi-final.

Harry New weaved his way through from close range and then Osian sped through a gap in Exeter defence to increase the Cowbridge lead.

The first half finished with a trademark Joe Arentsen side step to put Cowbridge firmly in the driving seat.

Ned Rees kept up the momentum with strong run and finish and Osian found himself on the score sheet once more. Final score 5-0 to Cowbridge.

The final was brutal with neither Cowbridge nor Winchester giving any quarter. It was however Winchester who crossed the Cowbridge line twice in the first half, notably the first tries Cowbridge had conceded in the entire tournament.

Cowbridge fought back in the second half with Osian providing a blistering turn of pace to pull away from the Winchester defence and get Cowbridge back into the game.

Winchester managed to extend their lead in spite of a valiant Cowbridge defensive repost.

Osian proved once more his clinical finishing, with very little space to work with, perplexing the defender and burning up the turf down the left wing.

A very accomplished Winchester team breached Cowbridge for the last time and managed to close out the game. Final score 4-2 to Winchester.

Their second tournament and second final shows the progress that Cowbridge under-9s are making this season, with first place surely not far away.

PS

Local interest in national Tae Kwon Do team's efforts

THE Welsh national Tae Kwon Do team (pictured above) are heading for the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh Scotland.

The team, which includes Master Paul Jones (coach) and Ruth and Ellie May (athletes) from Llantwit Major, flew up to Edinburgh today (November 13) with the rest of the Welsh team, which includes Jade Jones MBE, Olympic champion, to compete.

It's a fantastic opportunity for the Llantonians to represent Wales in such a prestigious event with the rest of the team, and I'm sure everyone wishes them the best of luck on bringing some medals back to the town **PJ**

Evan is over the moon!

LLANCARFAN trainer Evan Williams told me in the unsaddling enclosure at Chepstow races last Wednesday, after his One In A Milan had finished third in the CMB Engineering Handicap Hurdle, that he was 'over the moon' with the nine-year-old's performance.

One In A Milan which had finished fourth in the 2013 Coral

Welsh Grand National at Chepstow was having his first run since falling in the Aintree Grand National and Evan said: "He's a steeplechaser really and that was his best run to date over hurdles.'"

One In A Milan, who won the best turned out award, finished a very good third behind Tullyesker Hill and Garde Fou beaten just two-and-a-half lengths and a nose.

His rider Conor Ring had him in a prominent position throughout and was just beaten for second place in a photo-finish.

Evan said: "He had such a good run in last year's Welsh National that it has to be our target again this year." He added: "I hope we can get there, he had to have a couple of runs to get to that stage last season. We might come back here in a few weeks or we could go straight to the Welsh National - we'll have to wait and see."

TIM'S LONG TRIP PAYS OFF

First Fantango, trained by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, landed the Bert Logan Your Go To The Bookmaker Handicap Hurdle at far flung Musselburgh last Friday.

Well ridden by Michael Byrne, the 5-1 chance won by half-a-length from 14-1 chance Capellanus in a field of seven runners.

BANWEN MINERS' RACECOURSE SOLD

The land at Pentreclwydau, Resolven, where the Banwen Miners hold their annual Point-to-Point Steeplechases has been sold and enthusiasts are 'up in the air' at the moment as to whether racing will be staged there in the future.

I well remember attending the first meeting the hunt held which was back in 1976 on top of a mountain at Neath in West Glamorgan.

The conditions were so bad underfoot that it wasn't only the horses that were slipping up all over the place.

Both the men's and ladies' open races that day went to raiders, with Hiccup 11 from Ludlow taking the ladies' open race and Drumnasilla from the South Hereford the men's open.

I also recall attending the rearranged Banwen fixture of 1978. The Sporting Life's Michael Williams described it as being more like a comic opera than a point-to-point.

Originally scheduled to start at one o'clock, so as not to clash with the televising of the Grand National, the racing was actually put back two hours to accommodate a sale of farming implements!

The men's open race that day was won by Dillwyn Thomas' Cefn Soloman trained at Kenfig Hill. His rider was Bridgend's Paul Hamer and the ladies' open race went to Wales' most famous point-to-pointer, Mandryka.

All hunt-racing enthusiasts will be hoping that the Banwen Miners Point-To-Point Steeplechases will go ahead on May Day Monday in 2015, no matter where it is held.

You can e-mail any news or views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Barry 7 District ladies skittles

RESULTS for week commencing October 20:

First division: Family and Friends (J Phillips 27) 245, Allsorts (Jean Jones 237) 224; Family Affair (S Evans, N Jones, S Nelmes, J Davies 26) 248, Coppers (J Ford, D Nessbitt, S Curtis 25) 257; Castaways (N Shaw, D Rogers 26) 235, Barry Stars (C Lambeth 29) 251; Bakers Dozen (R Hewitson 28) 258, Colcot Ladies (P Johnson, H EWdwards 22) 227; Cigar Ladies (J Wood 33) 328, Red Admiral (S Romans 30) 310; Space Finders (K Harding 32) 316, Special Angels (C Thomas 3) 335.

Second division: Rhoose Starlights (E Davies 29) 270, Stirkers (G Giles 25) 240; Witchill Weebies (S Cracknell 36) 352, Roller Coasters (B Maffey 28) 268; SV Lights (L Norris 25) 251, Witchill Widows (S Murray 29) 275; Breakaways (V Martin 31), 306 Vixens (D Marks 32) 300; Cad Con Fillies (L Old 26) 201, Bobby's Girls (P Soleman 28) 242; Castle Bandits (L Nash 29), 263, Clickies (M Williams 26) 215.

Third division: Friends and Neighbours (M Phipps, C White, B Nicholls 24) 208, Rhoose Ravers (A Robinson, C Bagtnell, J Arnott, J Bishop 22) 234; Persuaders (E Scott 22) 205, Jolly dollies (M Enticott 23) 208; Dolly Mixtures (L Marsh 24) 195, Airways Angels (L Donavan 24) 217; Hillbillies (S Aspinall, D Stewart 31) 327, Westenders Rugby (J Jeynes 34) 341; Merry Makers (H Davies 24) 227, Rugby Triers (S Butler 23) 213; Etcetera (S Dyke 26) 263, SV Ladies (N Barry 27) 252; Lil's Devils (T Evans 28) 254, Witchill Wanderers (B Balmont 22) 172.

Fourth division: Fallen Angels (C Jones 27) 261, Twilights (C Brown 32) 248; BFFs (J Harvey 25) 201, Rebels (P David 28) 205; La-Belles (E Cordy 36) 323, Challengers (M Griffiths 30) 311; Wyndham Witches (C Green, Y Curnow 26) 233, Railway Rogues (J Jones 25) 22.

Fifth division: Billy Bunters (T Room 23) 179, Bary Raver (K Germon, L Smit 25) 239; Socialits (P Starr, K Glover 27) 205, Smurfs (J Hawxell 31) 223; Optimists (S Pritchard 33) 241, Liberals (C Chatwell 29) 230; Aristocats (T Weston 27) 219, Nite Outers (B Lowrie 27) 224.

Cowbridge darts league results

ON Tuesday November 4, the first round of the mixed doubles was held.

The two victories pairs at the Old Post were, Mark Dowling and Daisey Repke (Edmondes C) and Steve Simmonite and Ann Daily (Edmondes A) while the two victories pairs at the Edmond Arms were Trevor Morgan and Sue Morgan (Edmondes A) and Pam Adams and Tony Fox (Farmers Arms).

Present league standings after six matches, are: Llanharry (43 points), Highwayman Inn (31), Edmondes B and Edmondes A (29), and Hare and Hounds (26), Edmondes C (22), Farmer's Arms (20) and Old Post Ladies (14).

Next week, Tuesday November 18, there is a full programme of league matches. The Old Post Ladies hosts the Farmer's Arms, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Hare and Hounds, the Edmondes B hosts the Edmondes C and Llanharry hosts the Edmondes A.

All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome. Note all teams can register new players till the New Year so if you wish to play darts this season get in touch.

For further information e-mail Paul a t cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Sully bridge club results

MONDAY, November 3rd:

North/South - 1st Trish Tracy/Mike Hurst 61.49; 2nd Pat Evans/Jane Greatrex 61.21; 3rd Judy Collins/Shirley Powell 60.10.

East/West - 1st Janet Cunnington/Barbara Dawes 60.61; 2nd Peter Blackwell/Mary Blackwell 58.08; 3rd Pam Sherman/Pat Verdon 57.07.

Wednesday, November 5, North/South - 1st Trish Tracy/Peter Millar 65.79, 2nd Pam Powditch/Beryl Marke 56.20; 3rd Shirley Powell/Pat Verdon 53.01. East/West - 1st Anne MacDougal/Anne Hilary Jones 61.81; 2nd Joan Andrews/Joy Secular 60.42; 3rd Jane Greatrex/John Pikoulis 58.68.

Saturday, November 9, North/South - 1st Kay/Reg Dyer 61.51, 2nd Jane Greatrex/Anne Hilary Jones 51.19, 3rd Joan Thompson/Jean Sparkes 50.00. East/West - 1st Hazel Craig/Peter Craig 63.89; 2nd Pam Sherman/Una Gavin 58.73; 3rd Peter Blackwell/Mary Blackwell 52.78. **EK**

Surf club's AGM

LLANTWIT MAJOR Surf Lifesaving Club will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 18 at 7pm at the Lifeguard Clubhouse, Llantwit Major Beach.

The purpose of the meeting will be to review the years achievements and to look forward to the year ahead by electing new officers and committee members for the club.

Everyone is welcome to ahead - Croeso cynnes i bawb. **GE**

Busy times for Barry tennis

BARRY Tennis Club have the forthcoming events taking place:

Mondays 7-8pm, CardioTennis, adults and ages 14+; Wednesdays 1.30-3pm, ladies coaching with Rob Cunningham; Wednesdays 5-6pm, indoor family session at Barry YMCA; Thursdays 6.30-8pm, TennisXpress (adult coaching course for beginners/rusty improvers) -members and non-members welcome to all of the above.

On the social side, on Sunday, November 16 at 12noon, there is the 'Great Barry Tennis Club Bakeoff' - bring along your sports-themed bakes for judging by the Vale Cake Boutique and local foodies.

Prizes in adult and children's categories, all proceeds to the club.

The ladies Christmas social evening takes place on Friday, December 5 - see Carolyn or Penny for details.

There are also dates to be confirmed for a volunteer forum, to discuss how you might help out your local club with your time/skills/services and contribute to the ongoing development of the club, the Christmas quiz night and the junior Christmas party.

If anyone has any ideas for social activities (junior, family, or adult), please get in touch - we welcome your input and contributions.

PM

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Just three chances remain for Wales to prove they DON'T have a southern hemisphere hang-up, but...

Nothing less than a handsome victory will do against Fijians!

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

LEADING FROM THE FRONT... Wales' captain, Sam Warburton, on the charge... his stirring battle with rival skipper Michael Hooper was an intriguing feature of a match in which he again made the doubters eat their words.

LAST week, this column concluded with the words ..."*The giant strides made since Warren Gatland took over the helm in 2008, have turned Wales into a genuinely competitive force to be reckoned with on the world stage – but closing games out has all too often proved beyond a still young squad that has yet to acquire the total self-confidence that marks out the southern hemisphere giants from the rest.*

"This weekend, the Welsh camp hope the team will start to prove that this vital piece of the jigsaw is at last in place."

Sadly, that proved not to be, as a frustrated Welsh camp was again left to ruefully reflect on a match of 'ifs and maybes' as clinical Australia showed precisely how to win tight games on Saturday, by inching into a two-point lead as the clock ticked down at the Millennium Stadium, then forcing a kickable penalty to apply the *coup de grace* for a 33-28 victory, their 10th in succession over Wales.

How galling it must be for former All Black Gatland to see his charges faithfully execute his game plan – to replicate southern hemisphere pace and intensity from the outset – scoring four excellent touchdowns (including a morale-boosting penalty try) and yet lose a high-scoring encounter by just five points through fundamental errors at critical moments.

In reality, though, it was always going to be a tall order, remembering that until Saturday, Australia had won 26 of the 37 previous clashes (20 victories in 22 games coming since they lost to Wales in the third place play off in the first Rugby World Cup in 1987). They were now intent on ramming home their dominance and laying down a psychological marker for next year's tournament.

In that they were successful, which may well turn out to be the true significance of a match that Wales had also viewed as a supreme opportunity to break the stranglehold and prove that, contrary to popular belief, there is no 'mental hang-up' where the men from Down Under are concerned.

Indeed, Gatland had insisted beforehand: "*We are definitely good enough to beat Australia. It's just having the experience and nous to close those games out, especially when we are in the lead.*"

And that, of course, was again essentially the difference between two totally-committed teams that for all of 70 minutes were fairly evenly matched – but just as England found in their equally frustrating 21-24 loss to New Zealand at Twickenham the same day, southern hemisphere sides still retain that ruthless edge when it comes to tight margins between defeat and victory.

In the corresponding autumn fixture last year at the Millennium Stadium, Wales lost by just four points (26-30) in the dying seconds – but if anything, Saturday's defeat would have hurt the players more, being scant reward for an exceptional team performance that could not be faulted for effort and commitment.

Indeed, they had almost immediately brought the stadium crowd leaping to their feet by drawing first blood through a try by Bridgend and Ospreys scrum half, Rhys Webb, who sold an outrageous dummy and darted through unopposed near the posts, restored full back Leigh Halfpenny adding the simple conversion for a 7-0 lead.

Welsh teams have been undone in the past by being too slow off the mark and leaving themselves far too much to do – but on this occasion the players, to a man, were a revelation – matching their vaunted opponents for pace and intensity – though, critically, not for patience and composure.

This resulted in Australia's full back Israel Folau going over for the first of his two tries, converted in front of the posts by man-of-the-match outside half, Bernard Foley (who would go on to amass 18 points with the boot) to level the score.

Welsh hearts sank when the grateful Wallabies snapped up another gifted try, instantly turning defence into attack as hero turned 'villain' Webb, whose quick-silver, sniping runs were keeping the defence on maximum alert, blotted his copybook with an ill-timed and unnecessary miss-pass yards from the opposing try-line, which saw lurking danger man Folau gleefully intercept and race the length of the field unchallenged.

The try was converted by Foley to make the score 7-14 and many may have feared this would be a turning point in the game and that Australia would turn the screw.

That they didn't do so, had much to do with George North at centre (he would move to his more familiar position on the wing when Halfpenny was later injured).
North completed a Welsh attack with a trademark run that released right wing Alex Cuthbert, who raced over for a try, converted by Halfpenny.

Four minutes later, Australia regained the lead with a try by burly centre Tevita Kuidrani and sharpshooter Foley added the two points to make the score 14-21.

With half time fast approaching, the Welsh attackers stormed the ramparts again and a kick to touch saw the pack pile on the pressure, with Alun-Wyn Jones claiming the touchdown and Biggar adding the conversion – to again level matters (21-21) in this see-saw of a match at the interval.

One minute after the change-over, Foley slotted over a penalty – but to their credit, the home team rallied under replacement half backs Mike Phillips and Rhys Priestland, a threatening forward drive only ended by desperate Oz defence.

Wales fell further behind to another Foley penalty, but then came another powerful pack effort that forced five scrums near the opposing line – the referee eventually losing patience and awarding a penalty try. This was converted by Priestland to nudge his team one point in front at 28-27, with barely six minutes to full time.

This, though, was more than enough for a southern hemisphere team that only recently had been unlucky to lose by the same margin to the mighty All Blacks – and an ice-cool drop goal, followed by a last-minute penalty by that man Foley, again deprived Wales of a prized SH scalp.

Next up is Fiji on Saturday and there can be no ifs and buts about this one. Welsh hopes should be high, having won seven of the previous nine encounters.and rattling up 289 points to Fiji's 119. On the face of it then, this should be the easiest of the home team's four autumn matches, having previously inflicted heavy defeats on the South Seas Islanders.

These included 40-3 in the first match in 1985; 58-14 in 2002 and 66-0 in RWC 2011. Against that, Fiji have managed only a draw (16-16) the year before and a solitary win.

However, that result sent shock waves through Wales, when the team that two years previously had won a Grand Slam, were put on an early plane home from the 2007 RugbyWorld Cup in France, after going down 34-38 in a Barbarians-like try-fest at Stade de la Beaujoire.

It saw the abrupt demise of head coach Gareth Jenkins and his replacement by Gatland (who promptly went on to lead Wales to their second Grand Slam in 2008).

He will need no reminding of the events of 2007, or the fact that Fiji are once again in Wales' Pool at RWC 2015.

Even so, it would be a global shock of even greater seismic proportions if, despite the much-changed side announced on Tuesday, there was nothing less than a handsome Welsh victory to restore team confidence for the toughest autumn test of all to come – against world champions New Zealand.

The autumn target of at least two wins may yet be achievable, though it may well come down to the final fixture against South Africa.

Ireland have already shown the way with an impressive 29-15 victory over the Springboks at the weekend. Now Wales must also prove that the southern hemisphere holds no fears as the Rugby World Cup looms ever nearer on the horizon.

WALES team v Fiji

Liam Williams (Scarlets), Alex Cuthbert (Blues), Scott Williams (Scarlets), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), George North (Northampton Saints); Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro); Gethin Jenkins (Blues, capt), Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Bradley Davies (Wasps), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Dan Lydiate (unattached), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys). Replacements: Emyr Phillips (Scarlets), Nicky Smith (Ospreys), Rhodri Jones (Scarlets), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), James King (Ospreys), Rhodri Williams (Scarlets), James Hook (Gloucester), Cory Allen (Blues).

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